

Belgium and Denmark to devalue

Belgium agreed with the EEC to a devaluation of 8.5 per cent of its currency as one of a series of measures to salvage its economy. The Belgians had asked the EEC for 12 per cent at a long bargaining session in Brussels. Denmark is to devalue by 3 per cent.

Pages 4 and 11

Rakowski on the coup

In the first part of an exclusive interview, the Polish Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Rakowski, talks of the moment his government realised it could no longer tolerate the free trade union Solidarity.

Page 8

Jaruzelski will visit Moscow

General Jaruzelski, the head of Poland's military Government, is to go to Moscow early next month, his first visit there since martial law was imposed in December. The Soviet leadership will clearly want to discuss the security situation.

Bonn visitor, page 5

£400m Whitehall error on jobless

Whitehall badly miscalculated the rise in the number of long-term unemployed last year. As a result Parliament is to be asked to spend an additional £400m on supplementary benefits in the present financial year, which runs to the end of next month.

Page 11

PLO rejects wider truce

Mr Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, has resisted European and American diplomatic pressure to extend the ceasefire in southern Lebanon to the frontier area between Jordan and Israel-held territory.

Page 4

Saudis deny oil output cut

Oil industry executives believe that Opec will be unable to halt a fall in prices unless Saudi Arabia makes a substantial cut in production levels. Saudi Arabia yesterday denied making any cuts so far.

Page 11

Anger over legal aid delays

The Government's failure to reform the legal aid system means that Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone will take the full force of one of the legal profession's most bitter disputes when the Legal Aid Bill is introduced in the House of Lords today.

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Britain seeks Trident deal

Britain is trying to negotiate with the United States for British companies to make parts for the Trident nuclear missile. That would make its acceptance as a successor to Polaris more likely.

Back page

Nkomo's reply

Mr Joshua Nkomo, dismissed from the Zimbabwe Government by Mr Robert Mugabe, said in Bulawayo that he did not seek confrontation with the Prime Minister and would not go into political exile.

Page 4

England triumph

England's cricketers beat Sri Lanka by seven wickets in the inaugural Test in Colombo. John Embury took six for 33 and Chris Tavare hit 85.

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Leader page, 9

Letters: On right of reply in the press, from Sir Innis MacBeath; social sciences, from Professor R A Hinde. Leading articles: Irish election; Legal aid.

February, pages 6, 8

Chris Patten and Tim Eggar offer pre-Budget advice to the Chancellor: The Times profile of the Forestry Commission. Obituaries, page 10. Dame Margery Perham.

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Labour truce at risk in new attacks by the left

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Labour's truce between the moderates and the left could be put at risk by a defiant statement which will be published today by 29 prospective Labour candidates in defence of "extra-parliamentary action", the issue which led to Mr Michael Foot in December to denounce publicly Mr Peter Tatchell as the prospective candidate for Bermondsey, in south London.

It will reinforce the anxieties of the right and moderates following the disclosure in *The Sunday Times* of a plan allegedly drawn up by Militant Tendency to turn Labour into a revolutionary Marxist organisation. Today's statement, which its signatories say is "in support of extra-parliamentary action does not contradict our individual and collective support for parliamentary democracy". Labour moderates are also alarmed that two more Militant Tendency supporters may be endorsed as prospective candidates by the national executive and they want Mr Foot to take the lead on Wednesday and stop this.

Last night Mr Stanley Cohen, Labour MP for Leeds, South-East, a moderate was not reassured. Mr Derek Fatchett, a left-winger, was chosen to replace him. Mr Cohen's rejection is, however, not unexpected. In November he announced that he would not be seeking re-election and there was speculation that he might join the Social Democrats. After talks with Mr Foot he changed his mind.

A move will be made at Wednesday's meeting of the executive to overturn the unexpected decision of party's organisation committee on February 8 to endorse Mr Patrick Wall, the Militant Tendency supporter, as prospective candidate in Bradford, North, despite the recommendations of an internal party inquiry that he should be rejected.

The inquiry had cast "serious doubt" on the procedures which led to Mr Benjamin Ford, the sitting MP, being rejected. Right-wingers are hoping that Mr Foot will try to mobilise his personal narrow majority on the executive which backed him on the Militant Tendency inquiry and the non-endorsement of Mr Tatchell, to reject

Mr Wall, and at least to delay the endorsement of Mr Terence Fields, another Militant supporter, as candidate at Liverpool, Kirkdale.

One right-wing executive member said yesterday: "Michael has been anxious not to do anything that will upset the peace, but this report on Militant shows that we cannot sit back and let them walk all over us".

The remark reflects a growing feeling on the right that it cannot accept the terms which the left have apparently attached to the Bishop's Stortford pact, that there should be no draconian measures against Militant in return for an understanding that Mr Wedgwood Benn would not stand again for the deputy leadership.

Right-wingers fear that Mr Foot can make a strong case for Mr Wall's rejection without compromising his wish not to prejudice the Militant inquiry. Mr John Gillingham, MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme and a member of the Bradford, North, inquiry team, said yesterday: "The issue is specifically not about Militant. Our report excluded Militant from consideration. The issue is simply one of irregularities in procedure, which we said should make further selection conference necessary".

Mr Alan Williams, a Labour frontbench spokesman, called yesterday for the expulsion of Militant Tendency from the party. He said that the publication of the document revealing the pact confirmed that the group would not be satisfied until it had driven all moderate MPs out and captured control of the local parties.

Today's statement by the party's executive, issued by the left-wing Labour Coordinating Committee, says that extra-parliamentary action "must play a major role in the efforts of the Labour movement to establish a democratic socialist society in Britain".

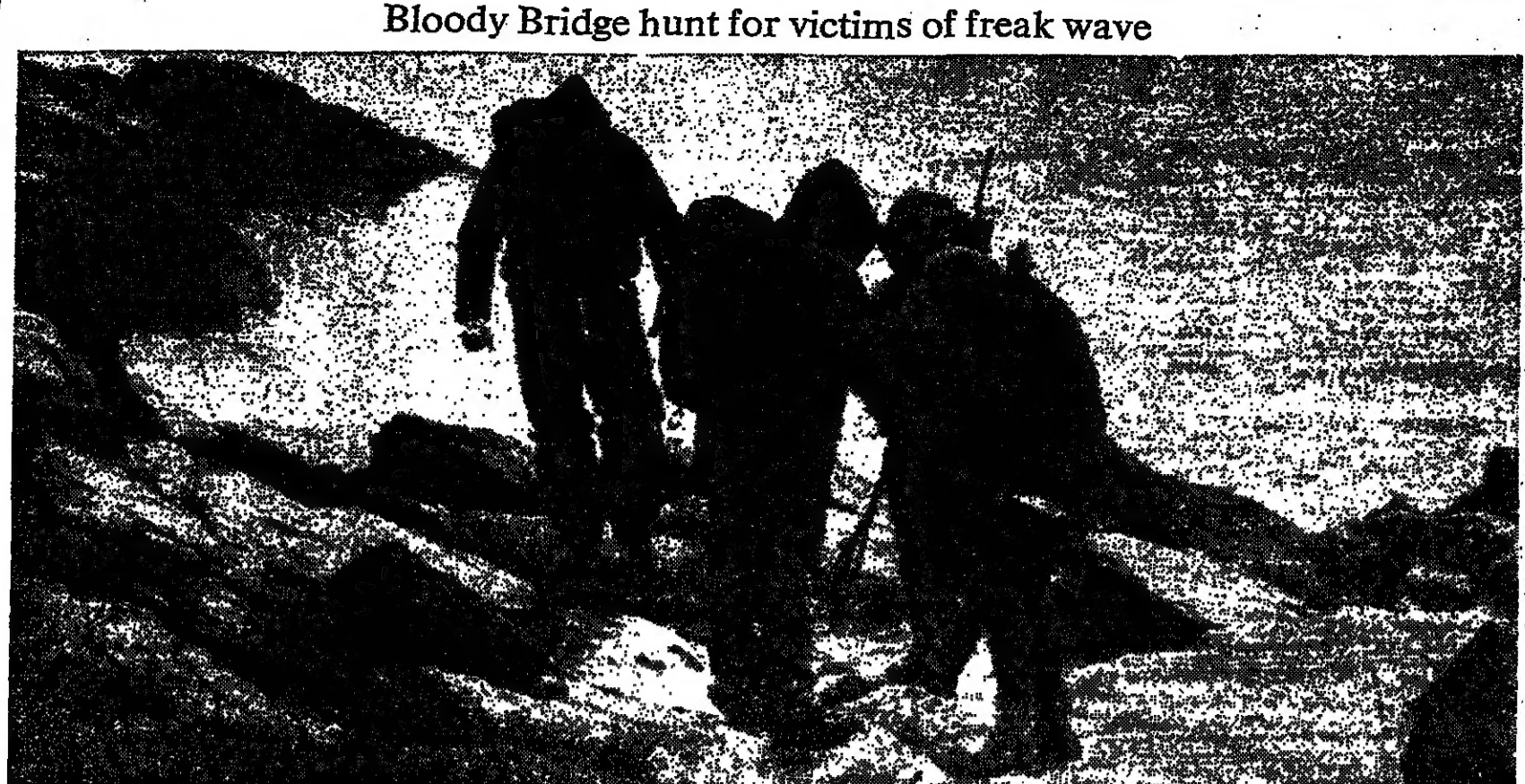
It adds: "The election of a government does not give that government an absolute right to pursue whatever policies it chooses, irrespective of the wishes or interests of the mass of the British people. It is as essential today as it ever has been for the Labour movement to mobilise popular opinion and action against the abuse of this power".

They fear that if El Salvador falls to the guerrillas, so will other Central American states such as Guatemala, where insurgents are becoming increasingly effective, assisted by Cuban advisers.

Mr Reagan is expected to follow the dual track of Administration thinking: to counter the economic conditions which bring guerrilla movements into being, and to oppose any attempt to put the region into the Soviet Union's sphere of influence.

Congress will be asked to approve around \$300m (about £166m) of new economic aid for the long-awaited Caribbean Basin initiative promised at the Cancun north-south summit last year. One third is aimed at El Salvador, around \$100m for Costa Rica, a large slice for Jamaica and the rest divided between other countries. The President is also expected to propose "voluntary trade and investment incentives, including the lifting of United States import restrictions on all goods from the area, except textiles".

Coupled with American attempts to bolster the region economically, will come the warnings against Cuban subversion. The President has warned before that he may attempt to "prevent the region from becoming a Soviet satellite". Officials point to the unloading recently of crates of Mig 23s and the same kind of warnings again.



Rescue workers searching yesterday for the bodies of two of the climbers on adventure training who were washed off rocks at

Bloody Bridge hunt for victims of freak wave

Down, on Saturday. Heavy seas and poor visibility hampered their hunt (Nicholas Timmins writes from Belfast).

The Sports Council for Northern Ireland last night started an inquiry into the accident. The probable cause was

freak waves, it said. The body of a third victim, Miss Philomena Gilmore, aged 25, an instructor, was found.

US is ready to step up aid for El Salvador

From Nicholas Hirst Washington, Feb 21

President Reagan is to make a major foreign policy statement next week on Central America, outlining his aid plans and giving a strong warning to Cuba over its arms build-up and support of left-wing guerrillas in the region.

The speech, to the Organisation of American States, comes at a time of increasing success by guerrillas against the United States-backed regime in El Salvador of President Jose Napoleon Duarte, and mounting Congressional concern that the United States is in danger of slipping into a Vietnam-style conflict.

At the same time speculation is rising that the United States is planning to support covert operations to prevent the flow of Soviet-made arms from Cuba through Nicaragua into El Salvador. Nicaragua, which denies that the arms flow exists, and is itself controlled by the left-wing Sandinista regime, is regarded by American officials as a potential armed camp to spread subversion throughout the region.

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Juan Carlos lectures his Army on virtues of democracy

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, Feb 21

King Juan Carlos reaffirmed his faith in Western democracy for Spain when he addressed officer cadets and former graduates of Saragossa military academy at a ceremony yesterday to mark its 100th anniversary. The King's address underlined the direction he wishes Spain's 350,000-strong armed forces, and especially the officer corps, to take in upholding the rule of law and the 1978 constitution. He was speaking on the second day of the court martial in Madrid of 32 officers for their alleged involvement in last year's attempted military coup.

The King was loudly applauded at the end of his speech when he declared: "I want to assure you your king is at the service of Spain". "Right leaders of the coup have been brought to justice and the King at the court martial as having been in sympathy with the attempt to overthrow democracy. Yesterday the Spanish ruler made clear his stand."

"I did not make a mistake when we chose, in the widest possible exercise of our collective responsibility, to travel along the same road as the free nations of the West. We were not wrong to choose liberty and justice in order to build a

pluralistic society in a united Spain. We must convince ourselves we have chosen the right model of society for our nation."

More personally, the King, who was accompanied by Queen Sophia, urged all Spaniards to regard the crown as the symbol of balance and fairness. Addressing the armed forces the King, who is their commander in chief, said: "The Spanish people have faith in their armed forces, let us be worthy of that trust."

He did not refer directly to the court martial, but at one point he noted there may have been moments in the life of an army when "the path of duty appeared obscured by passing clouds". At such times, he said, the permanent value of discipline and a sense of justice must impose themselves over all else and the sacrifice be made of fulfilling a duty however painful.

The King told the cadets that they must learn to judge every situation with realism and not act hastily. They should acquire a professional training at the academy which would also be useful to civilian society.

While the King was in Saragossa, Spain's Sandhurst, testimony was being read out at the Madrid court martial from Lieutenant Colonel Antonio Tejero, in which he claimed that General Alfonso Armada, the deputy army chief, had told him after he had seized Parliament on February 23 that it was "the King's order" that a vote should be taken by MPs to make General Armada the new Prime Minister.

Colonel Tejero, aged 50, who faces a 30-year jail sentence, has defended himself against the charge of military rebellion, claiming that in storming Parliament he was only acting under the orders of General Armada and of Lieutenant General Jaime Milans del Bosch, the former Captain-General in Valencia.

Though it was only written testimony (and much even then given to such great Tejero's big day. In the statement given originally to an investigating magistrate, Colonel Tejero also sought to involve the Queen, alleging that she had told General Armada when the royal couple were on a skiing holiday in the Pyrenees several weeks before the coup bid: "You are the only one, Alfonso, who can save us".

Colonel Tejero was reporting Continued on back page, col 5

England's rugby team in fracas at banquet

By Our Sports Staff

England celebrated its Rugby Union victory over France on Saturday in Paris a little too boisterously for the taste of the French. Mr David Brooks, President of the RFU.

Mr Brooks made a public apology to their host, and there can be no doubt that when the England party gather for training next Monday, the chairman of selectors, "Budge" Rogers, will be reading the riot act.

In the high jinks at a rowdy banquet following the international, Colin Smart, the Newport prop, who made a brilliant pass in the game, imbibed a bottle of after-dinner lotion given to such guests by the French Federation.

Whether he did it knowingly or not he was in three straight and was taken to hospital. Mr Leon Wallden the Rugby Union doctor, stayed behind with him for the day when the victorious team flew home. Both returned last night.

Early on at the banquet the England squad began tossing rolls and gift records at each other. A French official was doused in sauce. Glasses were smashed. And an England table for ten had all its contents tipped on the floor.

This is not the sort of behaviour we want, said Mr Brooks. "I was the greatest wreckers in my time, but you have to wreck without upsetting other people."

Rugby Union secretary, Bob Weighill, commented: "The team were entitled to celebrate enthusiastically after their marvellous win, but the rowdiness went too far and offended our hosts."

At home dinners the Rugby Union foretold similar trouble by spilling the mortar of the Match reports, photographs, page 15

Minority rule in Irish Republic

From Richard Ford Dublin

Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish opposition leader, remains confident that he will form the republic's next minority government after the second general election in eight months produced another hung parliament.

Seven independent MPs hold the balance of power and will meet both Dr. Garret FitzGerald, the Prime Minister, and the Fianna Fail leader, who will try to win their support over the next two weeks. Although neither leader got a clear mandate from the electorate, Mr Haughey expects to form a government that will last three or four years.

He said yesterday that that should be long enough for him to get his programme through. The public and politicians were united in not wanting another general election, and that would favour stability. Asked about the possibility of a Fine Gael-Fianna Fail coalition, Mr Haughey said: "No such preparation would be realistic at this stage. I would reject the suggestion that we have much in common. The differences are very large and in important areas."

The result was: Fianna Fail 81 seats; Fine Gael 63; Labour 15; Sinn Fein Workers Party three; others, including the Speaker, four.

Although Mr Haughey's party captured most seats, the result is not the personal mandate he so dearly wanted. He has now lost one election for Fianna Fail and will probably gain power next month as head of a minority government. His position is not unassailable although he dismisses any challenge to his leadership.

"I have no problem at all. I have done what a leader has to do. I have brought the party to a general election and brought it into government."

However, his low popularity and poor credibility rating is being blamed for the party's failure to win a majority against a government campaigning on a politically unpopular Budget.

Several of his closest supporters in the Dail lost their seats while his critics scored important successes. Mr Jim Gibbons, who was defeated last June, topping the poll in Carlow-Kilkenny. But the opposition leader has fought

his way back to political prominence when others thought he would be in the wilderness forever.

The election produced some fascinating results. The party probably over more to individual candidates than an overall swing against the Fine Gael-Labour coalition.

Fianna Fail took 47.2 per cent of the first preference votes, compared with 45.2 last year when the party's worst performance in 20 years. Fine Gael improved its record 36.4 per cent of last year to achieve 37.5 per cent, but its number of seats fell from 65 to 63.

The party rules say that if a leader loses an election he must seek re-election, but Dr Fitzgerald is unlikely to be challenged if he decides to continue at the head of the party.

The Labour Party watched its votes decline from 9.5 to 8.8 per cent, but managed to maintain the 15 seats it had at the dissolution. Its former leader, Mr Frank Cluskey, defeated in June, won a seat in Dublin South Central.

Provisional Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA, suffered a bad defeat. Its seven candidates all lost and got only 15,436 first preference votes.

Juggling the figures, page 2. Leading article, page 9

How middle children bear the brunt

From Peter Watson, New York, Feb 21

WH Auden once said "Only those in the last stages of disease could believe that children are true judges of character". So that's one poet who would probably have dismissed the results of a recent survey by an American psychologist—into what children say makes for a happy family. But for those about to become parents, or thinking of becoming parents, or not getting on too well with the children they already have, it may be of more than passing interest to know what the children say.

Two surprises stand out. In the first place, the age gap between children appears to be important for family happiness. The study, by Dr Jean Kidwell of the University of Tennessee, asked 1,700 children of many different ages how they got on

with their parents—how often they were hit by them, how often they were shouted at, whether their parents ever listened to their side of the argument, how often they were praised and encouraged, and so on.

Dr Kidwell found that in those families where the children were born four or more years apart their relationship with their parents was much happier than if there was a gap of one, two or three years.

There was less argument, less punishment and mothers and fathers were seen as far more reasonable and supportive.

What is more, a space of two years between children, which is generally considered by many parents to be the most suitable gap, was actually characterized in the study as

walk and talk, and is properly toller trained, it is time to start all over again immediately—and this pattern is repeated throughout the children's lives. "It is exhausting for the parent."

Not every parent wants to spread childbearing over the time it would take to have three children (say), each four years apart, but Dr Kidwell's findings at least alert new parents to one hidden area of difficulty in family life.

A second surprise is that the middle children in a large family are generally more unhappy than either the first-born or the last-born. In her study middle-born children were far more likely to say their parents punished them.

In general, says Dr Kidwell, the first-born child in a family enjoys a privileged position—

he or she receives stricter training and is expected to be more responsible—but that also makes the first-born, more often than not, the favourite. The last-born, in contrast, enjoys a more relaxed relationship with his or her parents.

Usually, says Dr Kidwell, this is because parental expectations are less and the pressures to succeed fewer.

In her study Dr Kidwell found that middle-born children reported more than twice as many unhappy incidents as did first- or last-borns.

All of which prompts the thought that from another great poet, Hesiod: "when you deal with your brother, be pleasant—but get a witness."

Colin Smart: Good pass, wrong bottle

All quiet in Zimbabwe

Nkomo rules out exile and confrontation

From Stephen Taylor, Bulawayo, Feb 21

Mr Joshua Nkomo has had no intention of going into political exile. "I will not leave this country," he said. "I did my leaving when it was necessary and now if anyone wants to shoot me, he can shoot me here."

Mr Nkomo said that the future of the PF, said by extension what may be the start of a challenge to the leadership, would be discussed at a meeting of the central committee in Bulawayo this week.

"It is very important that we keep the party machinery going to control things. Because I can tell you that if something goes wrong here," he indicated Bulawayo — "nobody will control the situation," miles from Mr Nkomo's home lies the township of Entumbane where faction fighting broke out after he was dismissed as Minister of Home Affairs a year ago. In two bouts of violence between former guerrillas more than 400 people, including many civilians, were killed.

The extensive damage done then to homes and buildings by mortar and rocket fire has been repaired and this week-end Entumbane, like the rest of Bulawayo, went about its business warily but without incident.

At a military barracks on the outskirts of the city a football match was in progress and soldiers were held allegiance either to Mr Nkomo or to Mr Mugabe before they were integrated in army units.

It was completion of the integration exercise last November, Mr Nkomo said,

which had marked the final deterioration of relations between his party and Zanu (PF).

There was nothing gradual. It dropped off right after that.

Mr Nkomo confirmed that after his dismissal he had boarded a flight from Salisbury to Bulawayo when all passengers were told to disembark.

Although the others were later allowed to reboard, a young white member of the central intelligence organization had stopped him and said "they" had ordered that he should not join the flight.

Mr Nkomo said that Mr Mugabe had not seen him after a meeting two weeks ago at which the proposal to merge their two parties had been discussed and when the matter of the arms caches found on PF farms had been raised.

"You would have expected that he would have asked for my assistance. What we had was exaggeration and dramatization right from the start."

That is not to say it was not serious — it was. But there were mitigating factors.

Asked what progress there had been up to that point on a merger he said: "There were obstacles but we had not come to the end."

He thought it unlikely that Mr Mugabe was responding to pressures from the radical wing of his party. Before, but now he seems to be taking a lead. His recent statements have been quite devastating. He says that Zanu will rule forever, like (Mr Ian) Smith said "never in a thousand years."

The fright factor in Belgium

From Our Own Correspondent Brussels, Feb 21

The Belgian Government this weekend decided on a series of drastic economic measures which only look as though they can succeed if they frighten the trade unions into submission.

As proof of its earnestness of intent the Government applied for a devaluation of the Belgian franc in the European Monetary System (EMS) even though last year alone the National Bank of Belgium paid about 310,000 francs (about £4.125m) in trying to "stave off" such a move. This is in addition to the 123,000 francs spent in 1980 and 113,000 francs in 1979 on the same exercise.

In applying for devaluation the uneasy coalition Government of Mr Wilfried Martens was adding to trade union worries, for unemployment in the country now stands at 13.1 per cent, by far and away the highest in the EEC, and the national debt is known to be rising by about 1,200m francs a day.

It is believed that such a devaluation would lead to a breach of the ceasefire in the Tysar battle, which lasted 24 hours," he said. "I cannot declare a ceasefire so long as there is no Palestinian leadership which will agree to a ceasefire, so long as there is an occupied Palestinian land."

In July last year, the United Nations arranged a truce between the Israelis and Palestinian guerrillas in southern Lebanon. Israel and its supporters have since interpreted this agreement as covering all areas of PLO activity, including the West Bank and the Jordanian frontier. The PLO has never accepted this.

"I want to remind them (the Israelis)," Mr Arafat said today, "that we did not ask for the July ceasefire. All we said was that we do not uphold a ceasefire as such, but we respect a decision taken at the Tunis summit not to carry out military operations on Lebanese territory against this occupying force."

The Palestinians have always fought shy of acknowledging that a ceasefire exists in Southern Lebanon, since this implies acknowledgement of Israel as well. Despite Mr Arafat's elliptical language, however, PLO members do accept that such a truce exists.

When diplomats in Israel began to warn of an imminent strike against Lebanon in recent weeks, European governments — especially the French and the British — did their best to urge moderation on the PLO. Last week, Mr David Roberts, the British Ambassador in Beirut, delivered an "urgent message" to Mr Arafat. Its contents were not disclosed.

In the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli today, fighting between rival militia groups continued for the third consecutive day, bringing the number of dead there to 24.

A government security committee which was trying to oversee a truce between the factions came under fire this morning, while Syrian soldiers of the peacekeeping force in Lebanon, assisted by guerrillas of the pro-Syrian Arab Democratic Front, fought three small leftist Muslim militias.

Mr Richard Fairbanks, the American Special Middle East negotiator, started meetings with Egyptian officials today, in response to calls from the Government for Washington to open talks with the Palestinians in an effort to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict (Our Cairo Correspondent writes).

Mr Fairbanks, who is on his first Middle East tour since his appointment a few weeks ago, has the task of inducing Egypt and Israel to agree on a formula for the autonomy of 1,200,000 Palestinians living under Israeli occupation.

The significant point is that for once both the Flemish and French wings of the union have decided that the traditional principle of indexation is too important to surrender, even on the limited scale suggested by the Government.

The French wing associated itself with the general strike call against the special powers a fortnight ago; but the Flemish wing successfully urged its members to carry on working. Now, however, the union on both sides of the linguistic frontier has agreed that indexation must not be attacked. In the words of Mr Jef Houthuis, the union president, it is "too sacred" a principle to be touched.

The union wants the Government to tax its way out of difficulty with higher levels on the wealthy, an idea the liberal parties in the coalition would refuse. If it fails to win its case the union would certainly throw its considerable weight behind industrial action to bring the Government down.

Should the union withdraw its support from the party there could be very serious repercussions, especially in French-speaking Wallonia. The party there used to be the strongest of all, but at the last elections it fell to third place.

Arafat opposes wider ceasefire

From Robert Fisk, Beirut, Feb 21

European and American diplomatic efforts to persuade the Palestine Liberation Organization to halt its raids into Israel appear to have failed. Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, issued a statement today saying that he would not broaden the ceasefire in southern Lebanon to cover the frontier between Jordan and Israeli-held territory.

According to the Saudi newspaper Al Medina, the British Government had privately but specifically asked Mr Arafat not to give Israel a pretext to "attack" Lebanon, but the PLO leader seemed in no mood to comply with such a request.

Speaking at a Beirut rally to mark the tenth anniversary of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a PLO faction, Mr Arafat referred to last month's raid by Palestinians from Jordan into the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

"Let the Western Europeans and Reagan hear me while they talk about a breach of the ceasefire in the Tysar battle, which lasted 24 hours," he said. "I cannot declare a ceasefire so long as there is no Palestinian leadership which will agree to a ceasefire, so long as there is an occupied Palestinian land."

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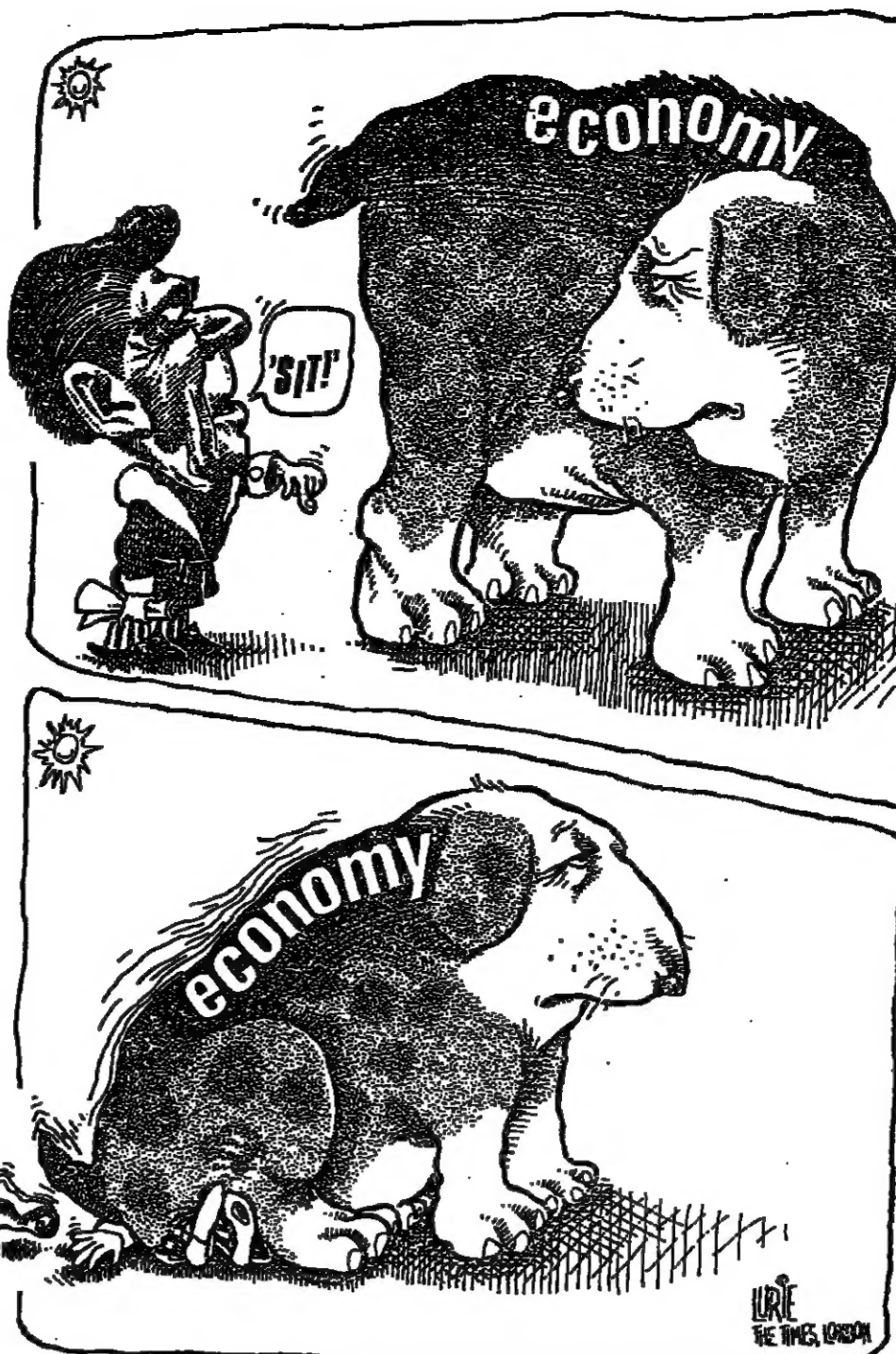
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Greenland on brink of quitting the EEC

From Christopher Follett Copenhagen, Feb 21

Greenland could well vote to withdraw from the European Economic Community in a national referendum to be held on Tuesday. If it does so — and the latest prognosis points to a close vote — Greenland will be the first territory to leave the Community since its inception in 1957.

With a population of 50,000, the bleak, largely ice-bound territory lies about 2,000 miles from the European mainland. It is the world's largest island, 840,000 square miles in area (roughly half the total land area of the EEC). A Danish colony from 1721 to 1953, when it achieved province status, it gained home rule under the Danish crown in 1979.

The ruling moderate leftist Siumut Party, which holds 13 of the 21 seats in the Parliament in Godthaab is anti-EEC. The island joined the Community along with Denmark in 1973 despite a 71 per cent vote against membership in a local referendum. As an integral part of Denmark at the time, the territory had no choice; but provision was made for a review of the situation at the end of Greenland's first decade in the Community.

Whilst opponents of continued EEC membership see political advantages in an exit from the Community preferring closer cooperation with other Inuit (Eskimo) communities in Canada and Alaska, less emotive pro-EEC elements led by the opposition Atassut Party fear economic chaos in the wake of any withdrawal. With a quarter of the island's population engaged in fishing, the role of Brussels in allocating fishing rights is a touchy subject indeed.

Although the EEC has virtually given Greenland fishermen the right to catch all the fish (with the exception of salmon) they can in their offshore waters, many Greenlanders resent orders from a distant European bureaucracy, which controls fishing in the 200-mile offshore waters outside the territory's own exclusive 12-mile zone.

The latest figures nonetheless show that Greenland fishermen fished the lion's share (82,000 tonnes out of a total catch of 165,000 tonnes) in its offshore waters in 1979, with West Germany close behind (70,000 tonnes) and experts doubt whether Greenland has the physical capacity to fish more.

The Greenlanders have more than quadrupled their fishing fleet tonnage in the past decade, tripling fish exports, which now account for 55 per cent of total exports.

Since 1973 the territory has received an impressive total of 645m kroner (€43m) in EEC regional, social and agricultural aid. On top of this, Brussels in the past five years has funnelled a further 174m kroner into more than 100 local projects such as water supply, oil and uranium prospecting, new fishing boats and fisheries inspection, job creation and training schemes and a ten-year sheep breeding programme. The European Investment Bank has so far granted Greenland 335m kroner in loans.

The EEC has in no way been stingy in its support, which is running at about 185m kroner (€12.5m) per year in all. At present the regional fund alone bestows on Greenland the equivalent of 2,110 kroner (€140) per head of the population (one per cent of the total EEC regional aid budget and virtually the entire Danish allocation) — a figure far ahead of Community grants to such deprived areas as Ireland and the Mezzogiorno.

Other economic realities also tend to favour continued membership — the EEC is far and away Greenland's best market today.

and "the failure of the recipient countries to comply properly with their contractual obligations to the Community".

The draft regulation to sort out that mess has been gathering dust since 1979, but two factors have now made the council take notice of it. The first is that food aids which is the largest area of EEC spending after the agriculture, regional and social funds, has become an increasingly important factor in consolidating the EEC's position politically in the Third World.

The second is that the European Parliament has sought to control this important area of the budget by defining it as the kind of non-obligatory expenditure which it can decide rather than — as in the past — an obligatory expenditure which only the council can decide.

The European Court is being asked to rule on which institution is legally correct on this point, but if the draft regulation comes into force, the matter would be irrelevant. The council would automatically have ultimate right of decision.

The regulation was drawn up by the Commission to avoid delays in procedure

which bedevilled the food aid programme. In essence it gave the council the right to decide how much aid and on what conditions it should be made available, as well as how to define a needy case. The regulation then left it to the Commission to distribute the available food according to the demands of world hunger.

The council, however, felt this meant it would lose control over this politically sensitive area. A year ago, therefore, the Dutch president redrafted the regulation, suggesting the Council alone would be able to specify which countries deserved aid and insisting that any amount of aid agreed should be approved unanimously. It is this amended draft regulation which is to be discussed.

Both of these provisions, as the Parliament and the Commission see it would limit aid and at the same time remove the whole programme from any chance of real parliamentary control.

A required unanimous approval for every area to be helped would mean that, but politically suspect countries, like Vietnam would be unlikely to receive aid.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Israelis axe spending

Jerusalem. — The Israeli Cabinet has approved deep spending cuts in an austerity budget of about £14,350m of which nearly two thirds is taken up by defence and the national debt.

It passed the budget for 1982-83 after weeks of wrangling over cuts after a warning from Mr Yoram Aridor, the Finance Minister, that without them inflation could double from the present 127 per cent.

The steepest cuts were in education and welfare. Nurses, teachers and social workers went on strike for several days in protest. Defence spending was frozen at this year's level after accounting for inflation. Defence Ministry officials said this represented a cut since prices had risen.

Pact against Vietnam

Peking. — Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Mr Khieu Samphan, the Khmer Rouge leader, have agreed to form a coalition to drive the Vietnamese out of Cambodia.

Prince Sihanouk, who has frequently criticised the Khmer Rouge, said he and Mr Samphan hoped that Mr Son Sann, the former Prime Minister, would also join the coalition.

Students riot on West Bank

Jerusalem. — Palestinian student unrest flared on the occupied West Bank when the fifth day yesterday over the closure of the Arab university of Bir Zeit.

Students in Nablus smashed school windows and furniture, and girls in El Bireh, Ramallah and Bir Zeit stoned Israeli military vehicles before being dispersed. Israeli security forces used tear gas in Ramallah on Saturday.

Life sentence for widow

Valenciennes, Northern France. — A French widow and her two sons have been jailed for life by a Libyan court for alleged spying, the French consul in Tripoli said.

Mme Denise Dupont, aged 53, and sons Alain, aged 25 and Jean-Claude, aged 21, had already spent 22 months in a Libyan jail. The consul said that an immediate appeal for clemency would be lodged with the Libyan authorities through diplomatic channels.

Japanese gassed on Soviet visit

Moscow. — Four Japanese nuclear experts were gassed with a sleep-inducing chemical and robbed on a Soviet train Japanese sources said.

The scientists, members of a Japanese delegation attending a nuclear energy seminar, were travelling from Moscow to Leningrad. Police later returned with the money and passports and said they had arrested two Georgians.

Gold row over

Prague. — Czechoslovakia has recovered 18.4 metric tonnes of gold, under an agreement signed with the United States and Britain to end a 24-year-old dispute over the treasure seized by the Germans during the Second World War.

Chad links restored

Cairo. — Egypt announced yesterday that it is resuming diplomatic relations with Chad. Relations were severed more than a year ago because of the Libyan military intervention there.



Papandreou: reluctant



Kyprianou: persuasive

Greece and Cyprus to seek British initiative

From Mario Mediane, Athens, Feb 21

Athens and Nicosia, in an attempt to induce the British Government to assume a more active role in the current efforts to solve Cyprus's problems, have decided to invoke Britain's continuing obligations towards the island, as one of the guarantor powers.

The decision was taken during consultations in Athens between President Kyprianou of Cyprus and Mr Andreas Papandreou, the Greek Prime Minister. These appear to have explored alternative courses rather than come up with actual initiatives.

Athens and Nicosia have also decided to inform all concerned that they favour an international conference on Cyprus under the auspices of the United Nations, not unlike the one originally proposed by the Soviet Union some years ago, but shelved because of Turkish opposition.

The mystery of why President Kyprianou had suddenly been summoned to Athens last Friday was not completely cleared up, but it appears that the Cypriot President had managed to persuade Mr Papandreou not to postpone, for the second time, his scheduled visit to Cyprus next weekend. This will be the first time that a Greek premier has been to the island.

A joint statement, issued in both capitals today, referred vaguely to "developments on the Cyprus question, which are still at the stage of elaboration and formulation", confirming the exchanges on these topics would be resumed next week, with Mr Papandreou's visit to Nicosia.

Greek and Greek-Cypriot sources also suggested that there were certain Western European initiatives in progress including one by Herr Willy Brandt, the former West German Chancellor needed urgent guidance.

Mr Papandreou said last night after spending an hour with President Kyprianou "I think there is now some light at the end of the tunnel." He did not elaborate.

Most Greek newspapers had taken it for granted today that Mr Papandreou would postpone his Cyprus visit. Opposition commentators assumed that what a Western diplomat called "the elaborate charade" of inviting the Cypriot President here, was meant to spare him a loss of face.

Mr Papandreou's visit is significant mainly as a symbolic confirmation of his Socialist Government's increased commitment to Cyprus, and it is presumably this argument that President Kyprianou used.

Why the Greek Prime Minister should have wanted to defer his visit to Cyprus again is uncertain. The local press has speculated that the visit might upset the Turks.

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BL Fighting back



Hatred in the Deep South: A Klu-Klux-Klansman expressing his feelings about black demonstrators in Social Circle, a town near Atlanta, Georgia.

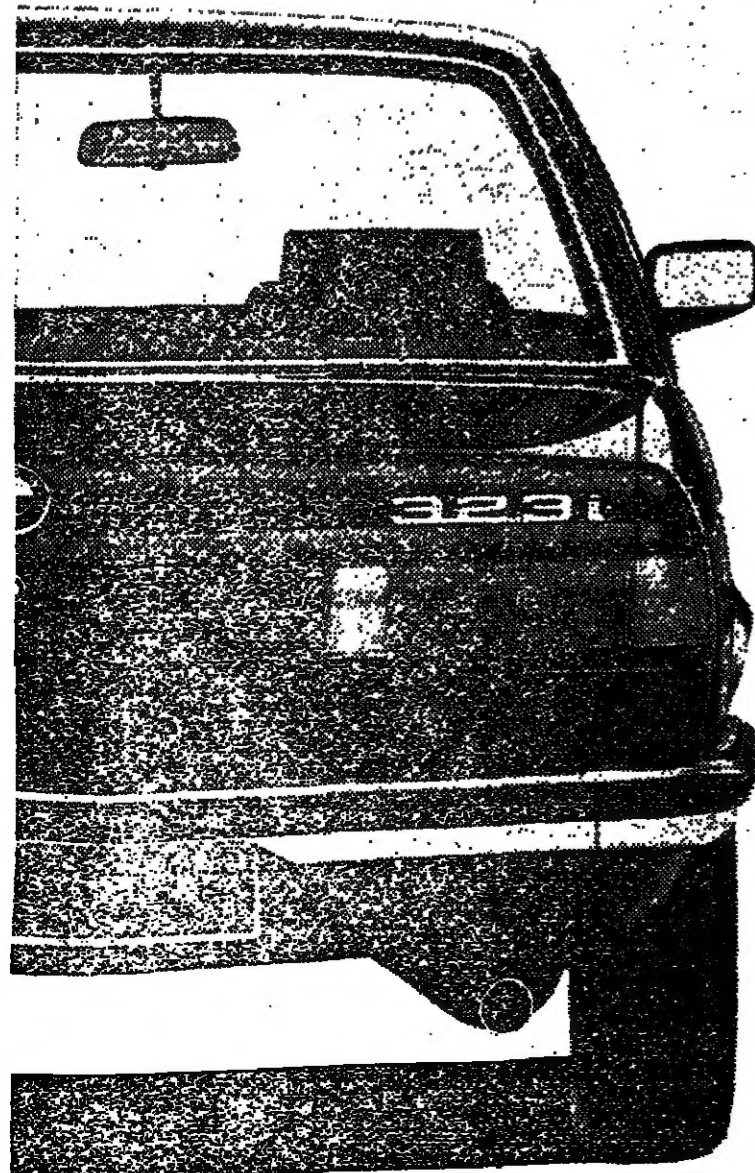
Franc devalued, page 11



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Jaruzelski rolls out red carpet for Bonn

From Our Own Correspondent
Warsaw, Feb 21

Herr Herbert Wehner, parliamentary leader of West Germany's ruling Social Democratic Party, is to meet General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Polish leader, tomorrow to discuss East-west relations, diplomatic sources said today.

Such a high-level meeting is a sign that one of Poland's main foreign policy objectives is to maintain strong links with Western Europe, above all with Bonn, in the face of the hostile policies of Washington.

Herr Wehner is the most senior western politician to visit Warsaw since the imposition of martial law more than two months ago and he has been given treatment that would normally be accorded to senior minister of even heads of state.

In swift succession, Herr Wehner has held talks with two key members of the ruling Politburo — Mr Kazimierz Barcikowski and Mr Stefan Olszowski — with important representatives of the Polish episcopate and the Sejm (Parliament). His meeting with General Jaruzelski had not been officially announced, but his other talks have been well publicized.

Church sources say that his meeting with members of the episcopate emphasized the need for continued dialogue between East and West and that there was no question of the Catholic Church supporting Western sanctions against Poland, as had been reported in the West.

Diplomats, though reluctant to reveal details of his talks with Politburo members, said that Herr Wehner was eager to convey the message that Bonn was willing to intensify links with Western Europe during times of tension to help provide stability in Europe. It now seems clear, after a Politburo meeting, that the party's policy-making Central Committee will be held on Wednesday and Thursday.

There may too be some personnel change but the position of General Jaruzelski as Party leader is unlikely to be seriously challenged.

Meanwhile, the dismantling of some martial law restrictions appears to have evolved a ten day cycle. Ten days after restoring some telephone links between cities, the authorities have announced easing of travel restrictions to the West. However, they are still extremely tight.

Pakistan's puppet show

Zia pulls the strings

From Trevor Fishlock, Islamabad, Feb 21

After watching a puppet show recently, President Zia-ul-Haq said that in future such performances should be more Islamic and nationalist in character. Accordingly, a committee will be set up to see that puppets extol the virtues of Islam and the progress of Pakistan.

It is not surprising that the President envisages a greater role for puppets. He wants Islamization, a main component of his life, to reach every corner of the country.

On his orders, the police here hang around embassies to sniff the breath of Pakistanis leaving receptions. The religious content of education, television and radio has been heavily increased. Hundreds of films have been banned. Women have had to fight to prevent what they regard as oppressive measures involving education and marriage.

Zealots are locked in gruesome argument over how to achieve a "third" hand should be cut off. They debate the morality of stoning lovers to death.

Petty tyrants feel licensed. In Islamabad recently a woman was struck twice by men in public because her head was uncovered. A television lecturer refused to have women in his studio audience. Clergymen condemned a singer who said singing was an act of worship.

The President, notably pious (he rises in the night for extra prayers), often says Pakistan is an ideological state and Islamization meets the people's aspirations. But his Islamic drive has done nothing to change his unpopularity. Rather, it has increased a sense of resentment.

People are offended when a general, heading a regime of doubtful legality, dictates the terms of their spiritual lives. They say already Muslims and no amount of Islamization can make them more so. Irrelevant is the word often applied to his programme.

Resentment has not grown into a threatening force, but the varied shades of belief and interpretation among the Muslim communities have already caused the President much trouble. On purely religious grounds, Islamization is left without dangers.

The President also tries to intensify nationalist spirit by ordering greater use of Urdu and national dress. Sewing machines have been humming since he ordered civil servants out of suits and ties and into shalwar kameez.

General Zia's Islamic emphasis is part of a search for what has eluded Pakistan's rulers and people since the country's birth: a truly national ethos for an invented country.

Pakistan has always been concerned with identity, the need to find a way of uniting and governing its rival classes and the four disparate provinces of Punjab, Sind, Baluchistan and the Frontier. To a greater or lesser extent, its leaders have hoped that Islam would act as a glue.

But Islam was just one ingredient of the foundation material, not the whole of it. Pakistan was created to provide subcontinent Muslims with a homeland. It was seen as a social and economic refuge, a place of material improvement for rich and poor alike. Thus there are many Pakistanis who feel that President Zia's determination to create an authoritarian Islamic state is a perversion of the ideals of Pakistan's founders.

Islam has never been a strong enough force to bind the regions, factions and classes. It has never disguised the inequalities between the poorer people and the feudal landlords and other elite. The poor have observed how Islam has been used as a slogan, a political device, a diversion. It was certainly not strong enough to hold East and West Pakistan together.

After democracy, and the abuses of it by the brilliant and thuggish Bhutto, Zia believes Pakistan needs strong right-wing government and discipline. Order is kept by a combination of civil, military and religious courts and by harsh punishment.

The press remains squashed. The removal of state censors from newspapers has been followed by warnings that political activity is banned and the reporting of it illegal.

Every morning the Islamabad newspaper, *The Muslim*, carries the slogan "The press and the nation rise and fall together". The press in Pakistan is in chains and journalism largely atrophied. One can only presume that this slogan, too, is primed without intended irony.

Zia: Zealot for Islam

Although political parties have been banned, their funds frozen, the newspapers ordered not to write about them, the political urge survives and has to be accommodated. Hence, like a caliph, President Zia has formed a 350-seat advisory Federal Council, skillfully chosen to represent the country's varied interests. It has a large number of ex-politicians and representatives of the landed and business families, labour, journalism, science and women.

There are 62 vacant seats and President Zia hopes to tempt more distinguished politicians into them. They have yet to decide whether the Council will turn out to be a political bandwagon or a collaborators' tumbrel.

Old political habits die hard, and a minister at a Council meeting was affronted when members actually asked questions. "You are supposed to advise, not ask," he said.

The intriguing question in Pakistan now is whether the President's Council is a valve allowing political steam to escape, or whether he has created a creature he may find difficult to control. Its members will presumably build up areas of patronage and form into pressure groups.

The Council chairman has raised hopes by talking of elections. General Zia decided soon after he took power in 1977 that elections would only bring back Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party, a recipe for chaos.

He himself seems secure enough. There is no sign of the deeply rooted unrest that finished off President Ayub Khan and Bhutto. The military class is looked after and continues to spread in the security forces. The President is unpopular, the business community likes the relative stability and the better entrepreneurial climate.

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Panegyric to Soviet Communism

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, Feb 21

The Soviet Communist Party today defiantly reasserted its claim that it alone provided the model for Communism throughout the world.

In a further riposte to the Italian Communist Party, which recently attacked Soviet Communism as obsolete and irrelevant, a resolution marking the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the USSR declared that the Russian way was the only way in developing socialism, and said the Russian experience was of "paramount importance" for working people of all nations and nationalities.

"There is no road to socialism that circumvents the basic laws discovered by Marxism-Leninism and confirmed by the experience of the USSR," the declaration said. Soviet communism was "profoundly humanistic", of an open, democratic character, and the Russian people were "peoples of the USSR, fraternal socialist countries and the whole of peace-loving mankind".

In a panegyric to the Party's achievements, the declaration, printed today in *Pravda*, emphasized the leading role the Russians played in the fight against capitalism. It said the Soviet Party was recognized and trusted by workers of all nationalities, and "hundreds of millions of people are now marching along the road paved by the Russian revolution."

The Russians have bitterly attacked the Italian party, which denounced the Soviet role in the crackdown on Poland. Moscow accused the Italians, and by implication all other Eurocommunist critics, of betraying socialism, insisting that only the Soviet version of internationalism and the revolutionary struggle constituted real socialism.

Today's statement insisted that Moscow was not imposing its example on other countries. Though the party had won the right to be the leader of all nations and national peculiarities. Nevertheless the Soviet party exerted a growing influence on the course of history by the very fact of its existence, and it was supported by all people of goodwill.

The resolution called for a strengthening in the solidarity of the world Communist movement as well as greater political and economic integration.

Man who shot at Brezhnev

By Gabriel Ronay

Thirteen years after the attempted assassination of Mr Leonid Brezhnev during a Kremlin ceremony, his assassin is reliably reported to be alive and sane, though kept in complete isolation in a KGB psychiatric hospital.

According to the Soviet civil rights chronicle *Arkhiv Svedeniya* No 4497, which has just reached the West, Lieutenant Anatoly Ilyin, who opened fire on the Soviet party leader and on President Podgorny during celebrations honouring Soviet cosmonauts at the Kremlin Wall on January 22, 1969, is kept in the KGB special psychiatric hospital in Kazan, in the Urals. Unlike his fellow political inmates, he appears to be enjoying certain privileges denied to dissidents.

The assassination attempt was never reported in the Soviet press but it became possible to piece together details from the eyewitness accounts of visiting foreign dignitaries who were invited to the Kremlin celebrations. Lieutenant Ilyin went into the garrison on January 20 and stayed with a relation — a militia captain — in Moscow.

On the day of the attempt, he borrowed his relation's rifle and fired at the cosmonauts. His shots missed and he was overpowered by Kremlin guards. Nothing was heard of him after his arrest, although one source claimed that Yuri Andropov, the head of the KGB, was personally interrogating him in search of an alleged "Leningrad connexion" linking him with disaffected top party cadres there.

Arkhiv Svedeniya now lists him among the hard-core prisoners of the Kazan psychiatric hospital. But while the other inmates are forcibly treated with drugs to help them renounce their erroneous beliefs, Lieutenant Ilyin receives "no treatment."

He is kept in solitary confinement. His isolation is complete and the special guards from Moscow watching his cell "are not even subordinate to the commander of the hospital guards."

The lieutenant has privileges unheard of at KGB psychiatric hospitals: he has a roomy cell to himself, is allowed to read newspapers and journals and has radio programmes piped to his cell. No other cell has radio in Kazan.

The Pope's African tour Vatican and Islam remain far apart

From Peter Nichols, Rome, Feb 21

The incident during the Pope's African tour which has aroused most interest here was his failure to come into contact with the Muslim leaders of Nigeria.

This contact was clearly one of the principal reasons why he undertook this second visit to Africa.

The advance of the Muslim faith in Africa is preoccupying for the Roman Catholics and quite apart from this aspect of the problem, the Vatican is pledged to seek closer relations with the other great faiths. Superficially, Islam looks to be the nearest. It is also undergoing a form of popular revival in some ways comparable to the enthusiasm which Pope John Paul II inspires among Catholics.

The Pope's meeting with the Muslims was due to take place last Sunday at Kaduna in Northern Nigeria. The Pope had a speech ready inviting the Muslims to closer cooperation. But they did not appear at the appointment because, according to the Pope's entourage, there were divisions among the Muslim leaders on how the presence of the Pope should be treated.

The organizer of the papal tour, Monsignor Paul Marcinkus, attributed the cancellation to "security reasons" but there is little or nothing to suppose that this was the real explanation. Despite the rebuff, the Pope read his prepared speech at Kaduna airport to the governor of the province, Alhaji Abba Musa, who happens to be a Muslim. The text made clear how much importance the Pope placed on the planned interchange: "I have come to Nigeria to visit my brothers and sisters of the Catholic Church, but my journey would be incomplete without this meeting." To this extent, it remained incomplete.

The Pope's message was a proposal for closer cooperation. "Why do I speak of these issues with you?" he asked. "Because you are Muslims, and like us Christians, you believe in the one God who is the source of all the rights and values of mankind. Furthermore I am convinced that in the hands of the name of God we can accomplish much good."

This was not the Pope's first experience of direct contact with the Muslims. He met religious leaders in Ankara in November 1979 on

a journey totally deprived of popular enthusiasm which brought the first warnings of a plot to assassinate him. In July, 1980, he met Muslim leaders in Accra during his first African tour and in February, 1981, he met Muslims at Davao in the south of the Philippines.

More dramatically, Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turkish terrorist who escaped from prison in Istanbul in November, 1979, with the purpose, he claimed, of killing the Pope, shot him and severely wounded him in St. Peter's Square last May.

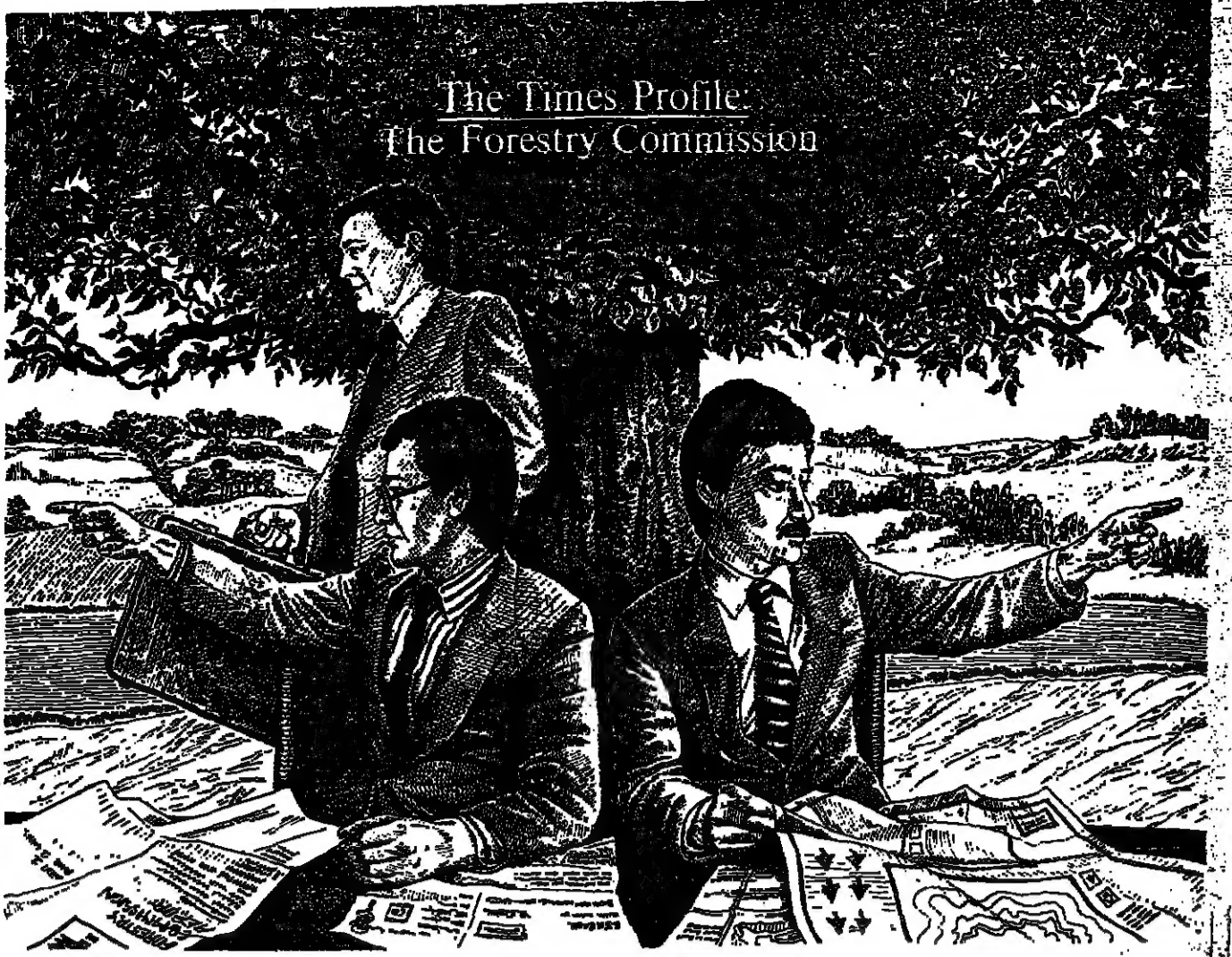
Speculation about Agca's position has still not ceased, and the feeling is frequently expressed that he was the instrument of some international conspiracy. What remains clear is that he referred on more than one occasion to the Pope as a leader of modern crusades. The Muslim press in Northern Nigeria stated that "since the times of the crusades, both Christianity and the Papacy were transformed into instruments of European imperialism."

There are obvious difficulties in relations between the Vatican and Islam. To begin with, there is no Muslim Vatican, no comparable hierarchy. Muslims, moreover, feel that there should be some Catholic recognition of Islam's acceptance of Jesus as a great prophet. Mahomet is not regarded as such by the Catholics. The Pope's spectacular journeys seem not to be helped by this situation and could arguably be seen as making it worse.

The Pope, who returned on Friday, confirmed that he plans to visit Spain in October for the fourth centenary of the death of St Teresa of Avila (John Earle writes). Before that he will visit the World Council of Churches and the International Office and probably to Poland in August for the anniversary celebrations of the Madonna of Czestochowa.

The Pope is spending a few days resting at his summer residence of Castel Gandolfo in the Alban hills. Addressing pilgrims gathered in the courtyard, he said he intended "if it pleases providence, to take part personally in the centenary of St Teresa."

Then catching sight of a group of Poles with their white and red flag, he said he hoped that his country would enjoy peace.



The Times Profile
The Forestry Commission

A growing problem

The Forestry Commission is selling off woodlands as part of the Government's privatization policy. In October, 5,000 acres of state-owned forest were put up for sale. Since then a further 12,800 acres have been offered for sale. Amanda Atha reports on how the Forestry Commission works.

The Forestry Commission is the largest landowner in the country. It is a Government department created for practical purposes, as part of the Civil Service. The headquarters have been in Edinburgh since 1975 (housed in a large modern building known locally as the "brown banana") because Scotland is where most afforestation is taking place.

The commission serves three political masters: Peter Walker, the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries; George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland; and Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales. The Secretary of State for Scotland is the senior minister.

The commission is headed by a part-time chairman, Sir David Montgomery, appointed by royal warrant. This is in theory a political post, but in practice, as the two major parties are in broad agreement over sylvicultural matters, the chairman may well serve more than one term. Under Sir David are four part-time commissioners drawn from the private sector, also appointed by royal warrant, and four full-time Civil Servant commissioners. The 1981 Forestry Bill makes provision for another commissioner to be chosen for his commercial expertise.

Under them are 12 policy-making senior staff at headquarters plus 11 conservators in charge of the 11 "conservancies" or regions into which Great Britain is divided. (Northern Irish forests are in the care of the Department for Agriculture, Northern Ireland.)

Under them are just over 2,100 executive and other grades from research scientists to paperkeepers, and in the field at last count in December 1980 were 4,766 (including 135 "halves" or part-timers), forest workers, sawyers, forest craftsmen and industrial foremen — and 1,083 others, including engineers, research assistants and a gardener. There are two research stations, one at Alice Holt near Emswary, the other at Bush Estate, Fenwick, employing 47 and 23 scientific officers respectively. The total number of employees is 7,996.

The department, according to Sir David, runs "very much like any other government department" with the commission playing the role of "corporate junior Ministers". The number of guidelines, policies, booklets and memoranda runs to thousands. There is even a booklet listing all the other booklets.

There is, however, an anomaly, as Sir David and others pointed out: the commission wears two hats. There is the Forestry Authority hat — public promoter and guardian of trees — and the Forestry Enterprise hat — commercial crop grower. In other words the commission is a cross between a Civil Service department and a nationalized industry.

The cost of the Forestry Enterprise to the taxpayer is increasing pressure from the Treasury to raise productivity. Because trees take anything from 40 to 130 years and more to mature, this sudden demand for a quick turnover was unrealistic.

Nevertheless, it precipitated the commission into a policy of blanket planting of fast-growing conifers, mainly Sitka Spruce. In pursuing this policy in the 1950s it wiped out forests of 30-year-old beech and oak in favour of the faster-growing crop.

As the commission is not subject to planning laws and as land was relatively cheap, the enterprise expanded fast. Last year it announced that it was on target for its aim of 5 million acres of afforested land with a state estate of 3,100,000 acres with another 2,100,000 acres in the private sector — enough to supply 8 per cent of our needs last year and about 12 per cent by the end of the century.

Under the provisions of the 1981 Bill, however, the commission is to sell £40m worth of land to reduce the department's dependence on the public purse. Sir David hopes to preserve the core of commission woodland by selling the more difficult outlying areas but, even so, some in the commission view the cuts with gloom.

While the enterprise planted conifer trees, the authority increased its activities to encourage private landowners to respond to the challenge of planting trees (the main incentive is tax concessions but the commission provided £2,584,000 in grants last year); to "protect and enhance the environment"; to provide amenities for the public to enjoy their woodlands, with picnic spots, camping sites and forest trails, and less quietly with motor rallies, motorcycle rallies and caravans.

last year (1979-80) in "grant-in-aid" (subsidy) was £35m. An additional £8m was paid to the Forestry Authority. The commission was set up in 1919 with the aim of providing a three-year stand-by of timber for strategic purposes — such as keeping the mines going in time of war — because the country's natural woodlands and private estates had been seriously depleted by industrialization and the 1914-18 war. With this remit the commission started buying suitable land on the open market from anybody who would sell. By 1957 it had acquired 2,253,800 acres and planted less than half of it.

At this point a report headed by Lord Zuckerman (*Forestry, Agriculture and Marginal Land*) queried the whole purpose of the commission by suggesting that the strategic argument no longer applied. The next war would not be fought with wood. The Government responded by switching the remit to growing trees for "social and economic reasons".

From 1959 on, the commission, like other nationalized industries, came under the 1981 Bill, however, the commission is to sell £40m worth of land to reduce the department's dependence on the public purse. Sir David hopes to preserve the core of commission woodland by selling the more difficult outlying areas but, even so, some in the commission view the cuts with gloom.

While the enterprise planted conifer trees, the authority increased its activities to encourage private landowners to respond to the challenge of planting trees (the main incentive is tax concessions but the commission provided £2,584,000 in grants last year); to "protect and enhance the environment"; to provide amenities for the public to enjoy their woodlands, with picnic spots, camping sites and forest trails, and less quietly with motor rallies, motorcycle rallies and caravans.

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system of 1-6, British Sitka is lucky to reach grade 4. Timber up to about six inches in diameter and early thinnings are used mainly for pulp to make paper products, in particular newspaper. Wider diameter timber goes to the sawmills and is used for pallets and packaging (36 per cent), fencing (30 per cent), building construction (12 per cent) and what the National Coal Board, a major commission customer, called "a hundred and one rough constructional uses down the mine — pit props, crownbeams and the like" (12 per cent).

The snag of these two major uses of the commission crop — pulp and sawmills — is that they require pulp mills and sawmills to process them. Last year Wiggins Teape closed the last large British pulp mill at Fort William because, despite guaranteed prices from the commission, it found the cost of labour, energy and transport too high.

The majority of British sawmills are relatively small: some are already in effect being subsidised by the commission's commitment to keep supplying them with timber even though current low prices may make it commercially inexpedient to do so.

Either way, the industry could never compete on a large scale with the huge natural woodlands and integrated pulp and paper and sawmills of Scandinavia and North America.

The "woolly remit" has also made the commission very vulnerable to criticism from those who do have a clear idea of what they are for. The conservationists, for example, know that they need sites for golden plovers, nests so they know that they are against afforestation; the fish industry is against the damage believed to be caused by planting conifers close to the streams where salmon and trout spawn; the private foresters are against the commission as a commercial enterprise because it does not have to show a trading profit on its harvest; manufacturers of forest machinery are against the commission because it is buying machinery abroad.

All the groups were united in concluding that the commission was too large, too powerful, too bureaucratic, too slow — too much authority with too little enterprise.

The commission looks into criticisms, producing leaflets and practical guidelines in response. Whether the guidelines are attended to depends very much on the individual forester.

Mr Murray Hunter, commissioner for administration and finance until his retirement, explained it this way: "Everyone who comes in, particularly at the top, says, 'Good God, we must tidy this up' — but in the end concludes that it is a muddle but it works."

Dr Odent works in a small-town maternity hospital, and routinely sees all child-bearing women. There is no complicated technique, because he has been at Pithiviers since 1962, when there are often unaware of anything unusual about the way they have their babies.

Dr Odent is pointing a promising way forward, a compromise between technology and humanity which does not threaten the status of hospital doctors. Lack of interference not only saves money, it seems also to facilitate happy and healthy childbirth. Perhaps women who cannot get to Pithiviers will educate their physicians.

Rachel Cullen

Birth of a new method

Women in labour in his hospital at Pithiviers, a small town south of Paris, do as they like in labour, walking around, relaxing in warm water, finding comfortable positions for themselves among piles of cushions. Babies are usually born with the mother spontaneously half-squatting, supported by the baby's father.

Medical intervention is kept to a minimum. No pain-killers are used in a normal labour. The Caesarean section rate, at around 6 per cent compares favourably with the best conventional hospitals, and the use of episiotomy — cutting into the perineum at 6 per cent — is also far lower than in British hospitals. Women at Pithiviers are never put into lithotomy stirrups, lying on their backs, feet in the air, since forceps are never used. Gentle vacuum suction may guide the baby down the birth canal, but women free to move spontaneously find positions in which their contractions are most efficient.

The position demanded of women in most hospitals has been called, the "stranded beetle" position. A woman flat on her back is wired to monitoring machines while the baby in the uterus often has electrodes clamped to its skull so that wires trail from the woman's vagina. In this position, not only are contractions more painful and less efficient but the heavy uterus is pressing on the woman's major blood vessels, lessening the baby's oxygen supply.

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Rachel Cullen

Slim the economy, yes, but don't starve it

4. Government departments' forms were criticized in Sir Derek Rayner's report to the Prime Minister.

ing Institute for Fiscal Studies estimates of the current cost of different measures.

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IT LOOKS LIKE MR HAUGHEY

"The most striking feature of Irish politics is the stability of parties," George A. Birmingham wrote in 1919. "No one imagines that the opinions of the voter can be altered by any means." So it seems.

The politicians go through the motions of course, but it avails them little. After an election campaign on which hung the economic independence of the state (Dr FitzGerald) or the future of growth and employment (Mr Haughey), in which the people were actually invited to select their own budget from alternatives on offer, the net movement of seats between the governing alternatives was three out of 165. The Irish voting system, proportionally pure but costly, is only part of the explanation. While the volatile English discern a new constellation in their firmament and stand amazed, no one in Ireland would be so presumptuous as to offer to break the mould of politics. The mould is as tough as old boots.

There is usually something interesting going on at the margin however. It is found this time in the two parts of the now forked IRA and corresponding Sinn Féin front. The part that carries on the military struggle against British occupation, represented in this election by the Provisional Sinn Féin, did badly in its seven chosen constituencies, and the republican Pucelle, Mrs Bernadette McAliskey, did no better in Dublin. The H-block wave that carried the candidates forward in June was a freak wave, as sensible people were aware at the time. The other part of the IRA, represented by Sinn Féin the Workers' Party, went marxist more than a decade ago and concentrated on the grievances of the southern Irish against their own system. It tripled

its representation in the Dail from one to three.

Although the shift in the central balance is very small, it is enough in all likelihood to put Mr Haughey in office next month. He is less fitted than Dr FitzGerald to repair the Republic's disordered public finances. In his eighteen months as Taoiseach in 1980-81 he markedly accelerated the pace of deficit financing and foreign borrowing, which Dr FitzGerald courageously sought to reverse. Mr Haughey's relaxed attitude to the economic day of reckoning, convincingly depicted by his opponent, had to be corrected by his campaign managers at an early stage.

The one really good score of the campaign touched on this. Dr FitzGerald confided on television that he had had sight of official papers concerning a refusal by the central bank of a request by the Fianna Fail government for a loan of £1350 million in the spring of 1981, whereupon Mr Haughey ran for cover by calling an election. The incident probably had less to do with Mr Haughey's creditworthiness as prime minister than with technical factors affecting the balance between domestic and foreign borrowing at the time. As told by Dr FitzGerald, the anecdote seemed well calculated to contribute further to Mr Haughey's "lack of credibility" with the voters, something the opinion polls were making much of. In fact it probably cut the other way. Mr Haughey cried foul, breach of convention, partial disclosure of confidential state papers for electoral advantage, and so on. It was Dr FitzGerald whose armour lost some of its shine.

Even when displaying a serious concern about the

country's foreign indebtedness Mr Haughey quite reasonably likes to distinguish between borrowing to cover current outgoings and borrowing for productive investment. A high and sustained rate of foreign investment in manufacturing industry provided much of the thrust that got the Irish economy airborne in the 60s and 70s. But while the rate of investment is maintained, it is now being translated into economic growth and employment only to a greatly diminished extent. This is a very serious development, for it suggests that getting back on course is not enough, that the strategy itself needs revision. There is no sign that an incoming Fianna Fail government has prepared itself for that, and small chance that it would enjoy the necessary security of tenure even if it were prepared.

On the "national question", viz. Irish unity, there are differences of rhetorical emphasis between the two party leaders. But since the question itself is largely rhetorical that will not make much difference. Mr Haughey's assumption that no rearrangement that is confined to the six counties of Northern Ireland is any use may encourage the SDLP to treat Mr Prior's plans accordingly. The advent of Mr Haughey will harden, if there is room for that, Unionist reluctance to take on trust any overtures coming from Dublin. The British Government will find itself under a bit more pressure to deliver the parliamentary tier of the Anglo-Irish council. In the more important matter of policing political terrorism, if past form is a guide, a change of government in Dublin will not of itself make any difference.

AID FOR ACCESS TO JUSTICE

As an attempt to placate the discontent of lawyers involved in administering the legal aid system the Legal Aid Bill, which receives its second reading in the House of Lords today, appears to have failed. The recent barrage of criticisms from both the radical and conservative sides of the profession has only grown louder since the Bill was published.

The concept of equal access to justice depends on fair public provision to assist the less wealthy to meet the cost of court actions. During the year 1980-81 the overall cost of payments out of the legal aid fund rose by £30m or 38 per cent. Even in real terms, the annual cost has risen by some 50 per cent since 1975. Such a rapid rise does not immediately suggest that aid is failing to get through to the people who need it. The reasons which lead the Law Society's Gazette to speak of a "sense of desperation" among those involved with the scheme spring from fear that a Government vigilant to constrain public expenditure cannot allow such a growth to continue for long, and that cuts imposed on an unreformed system would cause gross injustice to individuals who can ill afford to bear it. The harm that could be done

by such a development might scarcely appear in public records, as it would manifest only in civil cases not brought and criminal cases not defended. But where access to the courts to correct real injustice is blocked, respect for law begins to wither.

When it became apparent that last year's rise would far exceed the amount set aside for it in official estimates, the level of eligibility for aid, which had been tied to supplementary benefit increases, was frozen. The number of people able to claim has consequently already fallen. Plainly this is not a solution that can or should be applied for long and the need for drastic measures to make the system inherently more economical has become acute.

The Bill, ought to provide a useful opportunity for extensive reforms. But it is mainly concerned with piecemeal savings which threaten to complicate still more a system already too complex. No doubt today's debate will provide further details of how the enabling powers asked for would work in practice. But the impression given by the Bill itself is of an approach unduly negative and unconstructive. It would enact few of the recommendations of the Benson Royal Commission on legal services, which have been waiting for a

fair wind for more than two years.

The need for reform is all the more acute because there are at least two groups now denied legal aid whose exclusion increasingly appears unacceptably anomalous. Mental Health Review Tribunals are the only tribunals which deal with the liberty of the subject, but patients detained in hospital against their will are unable to claim aid when appearing before them, although there can be few categories in greater need of help in presenting their case. A provision to enable parents to claim aid in child care proceedings was put on the statute book as long ago as 1975, but the legislation has never been activated.

The cost of extending aid in these cases would be small compared to the overall expenses of the fund, but the need emphasises the importance of wider savings. A measure of agreement already exists in the legal profession on what can be done. There is room for simplifying the arrangements for contributions and for assessing entitlement. A legal aid system which is wasteful and inefficient is ill-equipped to defend itself in face of pressure for expenditure savings, and ill-equipped to serve the interests of justice.

David Wood

Broad hints of incomes policy from Labour

Nothing could have been more sure than that Labour leaders with only two years to run before the next general election, would soon begin (as the song says) to make some social and economic sketches designed to hit the Conservative Government electorally where they will hurt most. Peter Shore led the way with broad hints that the trade unions will still have to accept wage restraint to make Labour's affirmative programme workable. Michael Foot, having received economic instruction, followed up at the weekend with a speech in the same vein at Whitehaven. A Labour government, he said, would expand the economy by around £8,000m in its first year, and would go on refuelling until unemployment had been reduced to one million "in the lifetime of a Parliament".

Let it be agreed that here is a first-class Labour election cry for a "planned" society, especially in industrial areas where Labour needs seats if it is to win power. There may be doubts about the vote-pulling attractions of policy to withdraw from the EEC or to go ahead with unilateral nuclear disarmament, but nobody can publicly argue for a high

level of unemployment for its own sake.

Unfortunately Mr Foot, always a straight forward man, was an American could call "duplicitous", felt obliged to explain, if in wisps of gossip, how the trick would be done. He said, according to reports, that "we shall use price controls, subsidies, and indirect tax reductions (VAT) to restrain inflation." With an accompanying massive increase in public spending. Labour, he added, would use interest rates and exchange controls to bring the pound down to a competitive level, but there would also need to be something called a "national economic assessment" agreed with the trade unions.

Insofar as that gossamer policy will take the grain of practical politics, Mr Foot must have been saying that any government he leads will once again have to call in trade union leaders and ask them to accept some form of incomes policy so that unemployment would not be systematically reduced during the life of a parliament. Otherwise, consequential runaway inflation would mean ruin and even fewer jobs.

It amounts, of course, to the Social Contract and the national dividend all over again, as attempted by Sir James Wilson, Mr James Callaghan, with Keynesians like Mrs Castle and Reuben Foot, and also partly by Mr Foot himself, and also partly by Mr Heath's administration in more than 40 meetings in Downing Street with the TUC's economic committee.

There is no historic evidence in Britain that for more than a few short months trade union leaders, even if they and the will, can keep their end of the bargain. Every attempt at an incomes policy, whether statutory or based on an agreement described

as solemn and binding, has ended in the bursting of the banks and a higher rate of inflation with loss of jobs and incomes policies have brought down three governments out of four in the last 11 years.

The question has to be asked why trade union leaders cannot do what they have done in the past. It is a long and complicated story deserving more than the subject has so far had. But in essence British trade unions, understandably born in harsh Victorian times, continue to act as though the long-lived Queen still lives.

In an important sense, Mr Foot and Mr Shore, not to say Mrs Thatcher are theoretically right. If the United Kingdom is to compete in the world and earn its keep, then this side of hyperinflation there is a limit to what workers may be paid, especially if the lower-paid are to get a decent share and if an expensive social service is to be maintained and developed. Some trade union leaders accept that, though they tend to belong to lower-paid unions that would stand to benefit from state-controlled incomes policy of almost any kind. Most trade union leaders, however, can afford to recognize no general social obligation when they put forward pay claims. They put their own membership first and last.

The hints now being dropped by Mr Foot and Mr Shore about a "national economic assessment", therefore, may be regarded by industry, if not by the generality of voters, as worthless promises, until a new and promising generation of better-educated trade union leaders has taken over from the old hands with us today, who are really yesterday's men like Mr Foot and me.

Responsibility and the right of reply

From Mr Innis MacBeath

Sir, If Mr Baistow (February 16) wants a statutory right of reply in the press it is hard to see why he should eliminate temptation to cranks and the frivolous unless there are matching safeguards the other way. The Sun's enterprise last month that the occasion for your correspondence. The fact in the report could be summarized as "Two trainees allege corruption among train drivers". It is not difficult to find people who will make such statements in almost any occupation anywhere, the journalistic courage and enterprise noted by Mr Stephens (January 30) apparently lay in persuading the two to have their names printed. What is important is the extent of such fraud and the qualities in individuals and groups that discourage it. The Sun was not helpful in making a judgment; nor, so far as I could see, was any other newspaper. To give The Sun's style front-page, banner-headline treatment is bound to seem frivolous to some people at any time, just as it seemed irresponsible in the circumstances to Lord Hunt (January 29). Mr Stephens' reasons for not "miniaturizing" his modest discovery was that to treat it otherwise would be to "appease union militants". If cranks are people with obsessions, what could be crankier than that?

Yet it was possible for The Sun to assess the (a) its report was accurate in fact and (b) its

treatment was a matter of editorial judgment. To claim enterprise and courage was a bonus.

Journalism is not a profession in the normal sense of an incorporated body of qualified and mutually responsible people who generally respected standards. As newspaper and broadcasting organisation becomes more concentrated and more costly, the central questions of accountability and other parties' redress have huge implications which make servants and managers of the media nervous and outsiders frustrated, when they think seriously about them at all. General principles are usually cited first to justify or obscure particular motives and then (in an adversarial society) to denounce what the motives are believed to be.

Obviously, "union censors" are undesirable. Obviously, statutory safeguards and rights are no more than cosmetic if they deal only with symptoms: what is disconcerting or deceitful or frivolous is not *ipso facto* unlawful, and in games of strict construction virtue does not always win. What is not obvious, and seldom even discussed in mutually acceptable terms, is the underlying condition which produces the symptoms.

Yours faithfully,
INNIS MACBEATH,
11 Broadhurst,
Ashstead,
Surrey,
February 16.

Value judgments on social sciences

From Professor R. A. Hinde, FRS

Sir, I hope that a biologist may be permitted to enter the current discussion on support for the social sciences. Within science, a value system has grown up which depends upon replicability. Areas of research where the way ahead is clear, where results can be cross-checked in half a dozen laboratories, become respectable. But it can be regarded as foolhardy and disreputable to enter areas where the complexity of the landscape makes it difficult to follow the same path twice and the conceptual jungle chokes the unwary. To follow the "art of solvable", to extend the use of Sir Peter Medawar's phrase only slightly, is indeed often the proper course, but this must not divert us from tackling problems that are difficult if progress towards their solution could make a crucial difference to human life.

The problems confronting the social sciences are more difficult than that of landing a man on the Moon or unravelling the structure of complex molecules and involve issues at several levels of complexity. They are also more important. One takes only the area of social psychology, the development of personality, the nature of interpersonal relationships and the dynamics of groups are issues that affect us all.

The complexity of the problems does not mean that scientific standards need to be lowered one iota, though of course, every scientific endeavour the

precision of the tools to be used increases as the problem becomes more refined. But it does mean that the criteria of value must not always concern replicability across diverse situations, for each social situation is different from every other; the generality of the principles that emerge may be more crucial.

However, progress in the social sciences is not likely, at any rate for a long time to come, to involve the discovery of principles like the law of relativity or the theory of evolution by natural selection that more or less suddenly bring order to a wide range of phenomena. Rather the recognition of differing levels of complexity, each with its own emergent properties, must be accompanied by the remorseless teasing apart of interacting factors by parallel studies in diverse social contexts. Fortunately such studies are cheap in comparison with most research in the hard sciences.

Finally, whilst I would not wish to defend the importance of every research project undertaken in the social (or indeed any other) sciences, such must not be forgotten that major advances in science come from topics that to outsiders could seem trivial, such as the bizarre finches of the Galapagos Islands or the colours of pees.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT A. HINDE,
Park Lane,
Cambridge.

Canada's Constitution

From Mr Robin Maxwell-Hyslop, MP for Tynemouth (Conservative)

Sir, In the debate on the second reading of the Canada Bill yesterday, February 17, several members raised the question of what would happen if the Canadian Supreme Court judged the Resolution of the Canadian Parliament on which the Bill is based to be *ultra vires*.

In my own contribution to the debate I replied to this point that it is for the Canadian courts, and not for members of the House of Commons, British ministers, or indeed the rest of us, to rule on what is and what is not valid law in Canada.

Nevertheless, towards the end of the debate, my distinguished colleague, Sir Derek Walker-Smith, QC, intervened in the speech of the minister winding up for the Government to deliver himself of his own answer to that question in the following terms: "The Act of Parliament here would not be invalidated as a matter of English law. On the other hand, under the secondary operations of the federal Constitution, the Bill as introduced into the Canadian Parliament would be *ultra vires* and consequently in Canada the Bill would be illegal. That would be very unfortunate. That is certainly the answer."

While I hesitate to dispute a point of Canadian law with so eminent a (non-Canadian) lawyer, I marvel at the certainty with which he expressed his opinion, the more so as I judge it to be wrong.

Section 7 of the Statute of Westminster expressly states that "Nothing in this Act shall be deemed to apply to the repeal, amendment or alteration of the

British North America Acts, 1857 to 1930..." and, among other things, this removes the requirement stated in section 4 of the same Act that "No Act of Parliament passed after the commencement of this Act shall extend or be deemed to extend, to a Dominion as part of the law of that Dominion, unless it is expressly declared in that Act that the Dominion has requested, and consented to, the enactment thereof."

I would therefore expect the Canadian courts to hold that the United Kingdom's current Canada Bill would be valid in Canadian law notwithstanding any imperfection in the proceedings in Canada (including in the Canadian Parliament) prior to its introduction into the House of Commons. I hold this opinion because the prior request and consent of Canada to the Bill's introduction into the United Kingdom Parliament, though wholly desirable, is not a necessary condition for the Bill's enactment into law which is valid in both the United Kingdom and Canada.

Since Sir Derek advocated delaying the Bill until the current cases pending before the House of Lords and the Canadian federal courts are determined, it is important that the wrong assumption about the effect of the Canadian Supreme Court's hypothetical decision of a defective procedure in Canada prior to the Bill's introduction into the UK Parliament should be avoided.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN MAXWELL-HYSLOP,
House of Commons,
February 18.

Art for art's sake

From Mr Edwin Mullins

Sir, Mr Jeffrey Daniels begins his review of February 11 with a remark that should not go unchallenged. "The principal function of an art exhibition," he writes, "should be the advancement of scholarship."

The whole democratic principle that has taken us to public museums, public libraries, concerts and theatres is flouted by this sort of proprietorial arrogance. Would any music critic

dare pronounce that a concert at the Festival Hall was primarily for music scholars, or a drama critic that the Aldwych Theatre existed primarily to further Shakespearean scholarship?

The principal function of an art exhibition is to offer millions of people a share in the enjoyment of works of art they might otherwise never see. Scholarship, however valuable, is the servant of this public.

Yours sincerely,
EDWIN MULLINS,
7 Lower Common South, SW15.

The Tawney tradition

From Mr C. H. Rolph

Sir, Until I saw Lord Young's letter today (February 6) I wasn't sure how much interest might have been aroused by the reference in *The Times* Diary on February 3 to Professor R. H. Tawney's views on "mixed" education. Dismissed as a mere relic of the Fabian Society, was there quoted as saying that, Tawney "would never have supported a mixed education system" — and thereby, I suppose, implying that he would have thought much of the Social Democratic Party, which had accordingly no right to christen its new think tank with his much revered name.

So it may be cogent to recall that on March 17, 1951, when I myself was just beginning to recognise (reluctantly, though I feel much happier about it now) the virtues of the comprehensive system, I was suddenly stung to incredulous anger by the LCC's proposal to abolish the 1792 St Marylebone Grammar School, a school I happened to know something about.

I was on the *New Statesman* at the time and persuaded a non-too-willing Kingsley Martin to accept an article defending the school against the Goths and levellers. (It did no good.)

Kingsley had then been editing the paper for 21 years, he said a fortnight later, handing me a huge carton of readers' letters: "seen one of my staff writers get such a pasting. It's unique. I don't see how you can survive it."

Among the hundreds of blistering denunciations I found three sweet short letters in my defence. Of these the most unexpected, welcome, and marvellous was a personal one to Kingsley from Professor R. H. Tawney (whom, alas, I never met but whom I regarded, and still do, as a hero, a giant, and something pretty close to a saint). I think it's among Kingsley Martin's papers in the Library of Sussex University.

I wish I still had it, but when I decided I had finished my attempt to write Kingsley Martin's biography I nobly included that letter among the papers I "reared" the university library. Tawney's support for the preservation of that particular grammar school was, I remember, unequivocal.

Yours sincerely,
C. H. ROLPH,
Rushett Common,
Bromley,
Guilford,
February 6.

Inverloch grouse

From Mr Egon Ronay

Sir, Your guest critic from Germany, Herr Gert von Paczensky ("A grouse or two", February 20) compares my Guide's opinion of Inverloch Castle, Scotland, with that of the Guide Michelin.

I have written about the hotel's food, and Michelin doesn't. But it was last year that we praised their food; this year we don't say a word about it, except for decrying the recent retirement of their legendary chef, Miss Shaw. Herr von Paczensky's culinary expertise may herald Germany's emergence from her traditional gastronomic dark ages, but his article did not reflect traditional German thoroughness.

Plea for NI charge cut

From the Chairman and the Secretary of the Bow Group Industry Standing Committee

Sir, In their letter published on February 15, Sir William Clark, MP, the chairman of the Conservative Backbench Finance Committee, and Mr Michael Grylls, MP, the chairman of the Backbench Industry Committee and parliamentary adviser to the Institute of Directors, asserted that a cut in the base rate of income tax would be the best boost the Chancellor could give to a cut in income tax. Even if it cut in income tax, it would stimulate demand in the home market, and this is by no means certain, this would not tackle the fundamental problem, namely the high cost structure of British industry. The Chancellor's prior-

ity must be to help firms get their costs down and that implies a cut in the burden imposed by taxes and public-sector charges. The front runner must be a cut in the employers' National Insurance surcharge.

The major political challenge is to regain support lost since 1979. All the evidence suggests that the biggest drop in support for the Conservative party is among managers, professionals, skilled workers and their families. They cannot reconcile repeated exhortations to compete with the Government's continuing refusal to reduce the cost burdens on industry which have led to many of them losing their jobs. They cannot reconcile professions of concern about unemployment with the continuation of a tax on employment.

The needs of industry and commerce must be the Government's first priority for political as well as economic reasons.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD NEEDHAM,
JOSEPH EGERTON,
The Bow Group,
240 High Holborn, WC1.

The buyer's premium

From Mr R. F. Colin

Sir, Your issue of February 3 contained a letter from E. B. Leisenring, of Philadelphia, under the heading of "The buyer's premium". Mr Leisenring is mistaken in stating that "there has been precious little criticism of the addition of a buyer's premium at the New York auction houses". There has in fact been tremendous criticism by collectors, dealers and museums that buyers are asked to make a payment to the auction houses when the buyers have requested no service and have received none.

Auction houses are and traditionally have been agents for the vendors to and for whom they render all of their services. It is the vendor who should pay whatever is necessary to make the auctioneer's paying enterprise.

We differ also with Mr Leisenring's justification of the buyer's premium as "a part of doing business in a free enterprise system". Even in a free enterprise system there are rules. One of the basic rules is that a servant cannot serve two masters; that an auction house cannot be, even if it wished to, an agent of both seller and buyer; that is clearly recognized in our law with respect to real estate transactions where it is illegal for a real estate broker to accept compensation from the buyer; and that therefore it is immoral, if not illegal, for an auction house to ask for payment from both parties to a transaction where it is by

contract the agent of the vendor only.

The "stain" against the London auctioneers referred to by Mr Leisenring is not a stain resulting from a slant of the "London newspapers" but one which has been brought about by the auctioneers themselves.

Sincerely,
RALPH F. COLIN,
Administrative Vice-President,
Art Dealers Association of America,
575 Madison Avenue,
New York, N.Y. 10022.

Serious censorship

From Mr Colin T. Kitching

Sir, It would be fascinating to learn why *The Times* afforded Mr Michael Winner 39 column inches (February 13) in which to whinge about his censorship problems.

Will you mind displaying a total lack of artistic appreciation by congratulating Mr James Ferman, the film censor, on taking his job seriously. But even after the "massive" cuts Mr Winner goes on about I see your critic described the film as "deplorable"; other critical adjectives have included "appalling" and "vicious".

Keep up the good work, Mr Ferman, and don't let yourself be bulldozed by the Michael Winners of this world.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN T. KITCHING,
24 Chestnut Way,
Repton,
Derby,
February 14.

Conan Doyle as doctor

From Mr Owen Dudley Edwards

Sir, My attention has been drawn to a dispatch from New York by Mr Peter Watson, printed in your issue of February 4, respecting the medical attainments and achievements of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

It is possible that your correspondent feels the necessity to live down to his surname, but, pace Holmes's strictures, the original Watson invariably conveyed what the reader needed to know in a narrative. Mr Peter Watson's performance is more reminiscent of that of Inspector Lestrade, who pursued his investigations at Norwood when he should have commenced at Blackheath.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's MD thesis was presented to Edinburgh University in 1885, and still rests there in the special collections of the library (a point nowhere mentioned by Mr Watson, and yet the university and present location of the thesis would be likely to interest readers in view of the general comments on the thesis in Mr Watson's dispatch).

Mr Watson is not correct in stating that it remains unpublished: it was published in part in 1981 by Polygon Books, a firm controlled by the Edinburgh University Student Publications Board. Dr Graham C. Sutton contributed notes for the portion reproduced, and the extract formed part of *The Edinburgh*

Stories of Arthur Conan Doyle. Mr Watson is correct in stating it throws light on the modern cast of Conan Doyle's mind; as is pointed out in *The Edinburgh Stories*, it also throws light on the relationship of his medical research and publication to his creative writing.

I am also at a loss as to how Mr Rodin can describe someone as having "traced all of Conan Doyle's... medical writings, including his handwritten MD thesis", when the only tracing required was to make inquiry at the university where it was presented and which awarded its doctorate in response to such presentation.

I never get your limits, Watson. There are a few unexplored possibilities about you.

Yours faithfully,
OWEN DUDLEY EDWARDS,
5 Braefoot Terrace,
Edinburgh 16,
February 14.

Shades of B. Levin

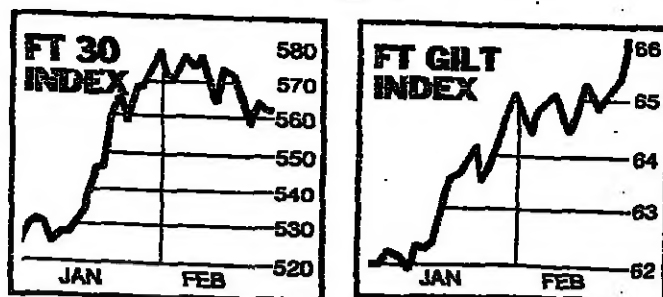
From Mr Michael Watts

Sir, If B. Levin, etc., are to be permitted to conclude their letters (February 13, 17) with "T.T.P.N." should they not be required to prefix their opening "Sir" with "Can I do you now?"

MICHAEL WATTS,
Press Club,
Shoe Lane, EC4,
February 17.

BUSINESS NEWS

Attractive gilts



Stock market trading was dominated by the strength of gilt-edged stock. Against the background of the joint campaign being waged by European governments to bring down interest rates, gilts yielding 15 per cent, looked attractive. The increase in prime rates in the United States had little effect, given the present bias in the relationship between sterling and the dollar. But equities fell on lack of demand.

Lloyds Bill: new moves

Opponents of the Lloyd's Bill will try again in Parliament tonight to force through amendments against the wishes of the ruling committee of the London insurance market. The main amendments on discussion are the so-called "immunity" clause which would give a new ruling council of Lloyd's protection from being sued for damages by Lloyd's, which has already provoked considerable opposition although the committee remains adamant that the clause is necessary. However, the Association of External Members of Lloyd's, representing some of the non-working members, has written to the committee calling for amendments to Clause 14.

China's 'signing on' fee

Western oil companies will have to pay a non-returnable "signing on" fee of between \$10,000 (£5,400) and \$40,000 (£21,600) if they want to bid for acreage in China's newly opened offshore waters. The Chinese government has told the oil industry that companies will be allowed to export a large part — at least 49 per cent — of any oil they find.

The oil search, page 13

Councils' debt at £39,606m

The total debt of local authorities in the United Kingdom rose by 8 per cent to £39,606m in the year to March 31, 1981. The debt is equivalent to £1705 for every person in the United Kingdom, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy says in its 1981 *Return of Outstanding Debt*. The figures show that 73 per cent of the debt is created by spending on housing, followed by education and highways and transport. The total debt per capita varies significantly between authorities — an average £1,321 per capita debt in London compares with a £158 debt in English shire county areas.

Samba prices

Talbot has priced the base Samba LE at £2,994 which is £255 less than the comparable Metro City and £261 below the Fiesta. Talbot's Samba GL version at £4,016 is £245 below the Metro LE and £252 below the Fiesta LE.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Market waits for ICI

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 562.3 up 0.1
FT Gilt 66.19 up 0.64
FT 100 share 325.51 up 0.42
Bargains 16,991
(Friday's close)

ICI, the country's largest industrial group, with fourth quarter figures due on Thursday, will set the tone for the market this week. But the City will also be looking to the company's statement to judge how the barometer stock is faring in 1982. Final figures for the year are expected to be in the £320m to £330m range. Some increase in the dividend is expected, followed in the present financial year by a full restoration to 1979 levels. The quarterly period will be examined to see how well the group has recovered from the disastrous 1980 performance. Then the combined effect of recession, despatching and agency movements slashed pretax profits from £613m to £284m, and cut the dividend for the full year from 32.5p to 24.3p. ICI's response to the recession has been to cut capital expenditure from the 1979 level of £700m to just over £400m. The 1982 capital expenditure sum is likely to be down again. By end-1982 the domestic workforce will be down by 20,000 from the level 1980, a fall of 23 per cent. Full benefits of contraction will be felt this year, with pretax profits next year rising to £350m, a fall in the assumption of

ECONOMIC VIEW

Official figures published today provide a new clue about the aspects for economic revival in Britain. The Government's composite index of "longer leading" indicators predicts the ups and downs of the economy about a year ahead. This index has been suggesting that the recovery will be very hesitant. Other figures published today show what has been opening recently to retail sales. See have been erratic in recent months, but are expected to pick up in the coming months. Figures for the week ending February 13 will be published, with a suggestion that their might fall in the jobsless level.

DIARY

Today: Cyclical indicators for the United Kingdom (Econ).
Tomorrow: Unemployment (Econ).
Wednesday: Construction new orders (Dec). Unemployment and filled vacancies (Jan-Mar).
Thursday: Unemployment in the production industries (Dec).
Friday: Energy trends.
Saturday: Sales and orders in the engineering industries (Nov). Car commercial vehicle production (Jan-Mar).

some upturn in economic activity, and on the elimination of losses from the electronics, petrochemicals and plastics.

Restructuring of the business is likely to continue this year, as will above-the-line redundancy charges. The group is estimating redundancies at £15m per 1,000 jobs lost, so the effect will be most noticeable in the sharply pruned fibres division. In the longer term there is the prospect that the group will be able to take advantage of a previous plan for acquisitions two years ago was halted by the recession. When this happens ICI will probably be transformed from being a lowly geared to a highly geared organization. While the pharmaceutical and oil divisions look soundly based for the longer term, ICI still faces the quarterly period, with its rate fluctuations and one-off cost savings providing a short-term boost. But the shares, at 344p, are close to their 1981-82 high of 350p, considerably above the price they stood at when the third quarter results were announced last October. Third-quarter figures from the electronics giant, however, should show that the group has maintained the 33 per cent growth in pretax profits it had achieved at the halfway stage. The group has transformed itself into an electronic systems company, chiefly supplying the telecommunications and defence industries. There was a setback on the defence side at the halfway stage.

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY — INTERIMS: G.T. Asia (sterling) Fund (first quarter), JOS Holdings. FINALS: Abbey Panels Investments, Anglo-International Securities, Trust, Charles Investment Trust, English and Scottish Investors, Investment Trust of Guernsey, Nottingham Manufacturing, Romney Trust. TOMORROW — FINALS: Agis Securities, Commercial Union, First Scottish American Trust, Grindlays Holdings, "Investing in Success" Equities, Emerton Investments, National Westminster Bank, Vantage. WEDNESDAY — INTERIMS: BPM Holdings, Eleco Holdings, Harrogate Holdings, Heston Holdings, Johnson, Matthew (9 months), Wedgwood (39 weeks). FINALS — Carrington Virella, Child Health Research Investment Trust, Hooper, Marchwell, Moor-side Trust, NCR. THURSDAY — INTERIMS: Footwear Industry Investments Ltd, Plessey (6 months), Ramer Textiles, Scottish Investment Trust, First quarter. FINALS — Cardinal Investment Trust, Imperial Chemical Industries, New Dairies Oil Trust, St Andrew Trust, SKF, Ward Holdings, Westwood Dares. FRIDAY — INTERIM: Celtic Holdings. FINALS: Al Industrial Products, Leopold Joseph Sterling Fund.

Saudi Arabia denies cutting oil production

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

Saudi Arabia yesterday denied that it had cut oil production levels in response to the glut of oil on the world markets and falling prices. In a formal statement, the Saudi authorities insisted that contrary to reports, it had not cut production to between 7 million and 7.5 million barrels daily. The world's biggest crude oil exporting nation, Saudi Arabia exports a production ceiling of 8.5 million barrels daily as a result of demands made by other members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries last November.

In a statement issued through the Saudi press agency, Shaikh Abdul Aziz Al-Turki, Under Secretary of the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources, said that the country's crude production was "continuing within the framework of the announced ceiling of 8.5 million barrels daily". He strongly denied reports that any decision had been taken to reduce production to the reported lower levels. In spite of the denial, oil industry executives strongly believe that Opec will be unable to halt a fall in prices unless Saudi Arabia makes a substantial cut in production levels.

In New York, industry sources were quoted as saying that while not altering the official production ceiling, Saudi Arabia had taken steps to defend prices by allowing oil companies to lift a little less than their quotas so that output fell gradually.

Opec prices are aligned on a rate of \$34 a barrel for the benchmark light crude. Saudi Arabia in recent weeks this has been quoted at below \$29 on the non-contract spot market.

Other countries have already taken action, with Iran having cut

prices by \$2 a barrel. Amid unilateral action among some Opec members, Iraq has led demands for an emergency meeting of the Opec members before the next planned meeting in Ecuador on May 20. But it is considered unlikely that the Opec members will be able to draw up any concerted plan to stabilize prices before then.

The lack of a formal move by Saudi Arabia to cut production and steady the market has puzzled the oil industry since the Saudis have said that the country could meet its financial targets by producing only about 6 million barrels a day.

Belgium asks EEC for 12pc devaluation

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Feb 21

Belgium today asked the other EEC governments to agree a 12 per cent devaluation of the Belgian franc as one of a series of austerity measures to salvage the national economy.

The hastily convened meeting of the EEC monetary committee, which suggested an 8 per cent devaluation, stressed the need to respect the overall balance of the European Monetary System, and to avoid competitive devaluations.

The meeting started with Mr Willy De Clercq, Belgian Finance Minister, arguing his case for a 12 per cent devaluation by detailing the drastic measures his government was taking this week-end to cure the country's economic ills.

In the past three years the Belgian franc has become the most heavily indebted currency in the western world as successive governments have spent about 550,000 million francs in trying to stave off devaluation, but this week-end Mr Willy De Clercq, the French Minister, reluctantly agreed with his cabinet that the application would have to be made.

The new Danish Government decided to take advantage of the meeting to ask in its turn for a 7 per cent devaluation in the Danish kroner. Neither application was very successful, however, and the devaluation would increase inflation in Belgium.



Mr Willy de Clercq yesterday

countries, most of whom considered the devaluations should have been made during the big readjustment of EMS currencies last October.

The strongest opposition came from France, which said it would accept only a 6 per cent devaluation. France precipitated the need for the realignment in October because the Bank of France was then paying out about £850m a week to support the French franc, Italy expressed the same opinion as France.

West Germany said a 12 per cent devaluation would mean a 22 per cent change in the franc's rate against the mark in five months, taking into account the 5.5 per cent revaluation of the mark last October. West Germany also argued the devaluation would increase inflation in Belgium.

accentuating the difference between the two countries' economies instead of the economic convergence that was the aim of the EMS.

A serious complicating factor for Belgium was that Luxembourg refusing to devalue because its economy was perfectly sound. A change in the rate for the Belgian franc would have the effect of tearing apart the economic union between the two countries.

Moreover the practicalities of different rates for the banknotes and coins from each country, which circulate freely on both sides of their borders, had not been worked out.

Belgium had resisted devaluation in October on the technical grounds that it was in the hands of a caretaker government, which was not capable of taking such a decision. On coming to power, however, Mr Martens quickly adopted the view that only a more realistic value for the currency would give Belgium a chance to pull out of its economic problems.

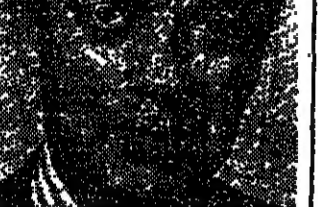
In the negotiations Britain seemed prepared to accept the view that Belgium should be allowed to devalue, but by no more than between six and eight per cent. The agricultural countries, notably France and Ireland, were not prepared to go even that far.



Mr Herrmann: watching Japanese competition

Comet to announce new chief this week

By Sally White



Biffon: 'Threat to Western economies'

Controls on Japan 'may be needed'

By George Clark

Britain and other European governments will be forced to impose stiff controls on Japanese imports if opportunities do not open up for Western exporters in Japan, Mr John Biffon, Secretary of State for Trade said yesterday.

Speaking on Independent Television's *Weekend World*, Mr Biffon said he did not believe that such action was contrary to Mrs Thatcher's free trade policy. "It does not mean that I believe in unconditional free trade. The threat that is presented by the success of the Japanese economy... is that it is intruding upon Western economies... it is speed which simply is not socially acceptable," he said.

Research by the programme suggested that the United Kingdom's trade deficit with Japan would rise to £2,500m in 1985 compared with £1,200m last year. The deficit for the European Community as a whole could soar from £8,000m last year to £14,000m by 1985.

Comet Radiovision is to announce a new managing director this week. He will replace Mr Edmund Pears, whose resignation was disclosed at meetings in the City last week by Mr Michael Hollingbery, the chairman.

Mr Hollingbery, whose family founded the business in the 1930s and still hold 35 per cent of the equity, stresses that there has not been a dispute between the men. It seems more a case of the business not being big enough for a managing director and chairman who works full-time in the business. "I think he finds that there is not sufficient to do in a company of our size," Mr Hollingbery said.

Comet's share price suffered last week from the news that the jewelry and do-

it-yourself sides of the business are still ailing. Mr Hollingbery sounded rueful yesterday that he had been "full and frank" with the stockbrokers he saw last week. "But I think you must," he said. The share price fell to 108p at the end of last week, down from 123p on Monday.

The traditional side of the business, the electrical stores, are doing well.

Improvements in this side of the business helped the group to raise profits before tax by 12.5 per cent to £7.2m for the year to last August. But Comet has been suffering from the very high hopes held for it, built on its growth in the late 1970s, when profit rises of about 50 per cent were common.

Steel port for coal export

By Jonathan Davis, Energy Correspondent

The National Coal Board is considering exporting coal through British Steel's port facilities at Hummerston, Ayrshire, as part of its drive to shift as much surplus coal as it can through overseas sales.

Last year, the coal board exported nine million tons of coal and one million tons of coke. Its customers included several Eastern block countries including Albania, Romania and Yugoslavia.

In 1979 coal exports totalled only 2.5 million tons. Coal was shipped out from the board's two main locations in South Wales and Humberside.

Since then, the board has also started to export coal from ports in the North east,

Cumberland and Scotland. The Hummerston facilities have plenty of spare capacity, and could be converted quite cheaply to handle coal exports.

Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the National Coal Board, has defended his policy of exports against the criticism that he is simply dumping coal abroad at a loss. While the exports are certainly not profitable, Sir Derek says that it is cheaper to sell the coal abroad than it is to pay the cost of keeping it in stock in Britain.

It is far from certain that the coal board will be able to maintain its level of exports this year, although it will again be producing more than it needs.

Never alone with a watch

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

The talking electronic watch introduced last year by the Trafalgar Watch Company of London is shortly to be succeeded by a message speaking watch, a radio watch and a beeper-call watch.

Mr Willy Herrmann, Trafalgar's chairman, who came to Britain from Czechoslovakia in the 1930s with only loose change in his pocket, is also planning a watch which can open garage doors by remote control and another that will be able to start a car from a distance and turn on its interior heater.

He is also watching carefully the launch in Japan of the first television watch, probably within two years.

Since last November nearly 35,000 talking watches, selling at nearly £60, have been sold into the trade by Trafalgar. On demand they speak the time, sound an alarm, give a second-by-second countdown and ring out an hourly chime.

There has been a big sale to blind people but they are also handy in darkened working conditions.

A German-speaking version comes out next month, and a Spanish version is planned.

The message watch, costing about £22.50, will be programmable by the user to speak messages of up to 12 letters long, giving reminders to make a telephone call or meet an appointment.

BL market share climbs 6 pc

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

BL, licking its wounds this weekend after the end of the four-week strike at its truck plants, has received good news from the car market. The company's share of domestic sales has been pulled back to more than 20 per cent from last month's dismal 14 per cent.

This sharp increase in sales, even if it can be sustained for the whole of February, will not be enough, however, to bring BL back to its 1981 position. For the first two months of last year, the company won 19.16 per cent of sales but industry figures show its share this year so far is running at 16.5 per cent.

Imported cars appear once again to be taking in increasing share of sales. The two-month figure for imports fell from 58.6 per cent in 1980 to 53.3 per cent last year but has crept back to more than 56 per cent.

Sir Michael Edwards, BL

chairman, is confident that the company will achieve a 20 per cent market penetration this year, a target narrowly missed in 1981.

A slightly higher share is forecast by Mr Ray Horrocks, chairman of BL Cars, who estimates that if the total market rises from last year's 1.48 million cars to more than 1.5 million then BL could increase its share by 1 per cent, which means the sale of an extra 15,000 cars.

Confirmation of this trend during the next few weeks could be welcomed particularly by Sir Michael, who is to announce the company's annual results in mid-March.

These will show that the 1980 record net loss of £535.5m has been cut to nearer £500m and the chairman, delivering his last set of results before leaving the company in November, is expected to repeat his belief that BL is set to break even by the end of next year.

Whitehall's £400m error on jobless

By Melvyn Westlake

The Government is facing a new bill, running into hundreds of millions of pounds, to meet the soaring cost of the long-term unemployed. The reason is that Whitehall has badly miscalculated the number of people who would be out of work for more than a year. After 12 months on the dole, unemployment benefit ceases and the jobless are forced to apply for supplementary benefit.

Since the beginning of last year, the number of long-term unemployed has almost doubled to 850,000. This is a faster rate of increase than had been expected. Mr Nicholas Ridley, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, is seeking approval from Parliament for additional spending of £400m on supplementary benefit during the present financial year. This is on top of £100m approved by Parliament earlier in the year. Together, the sums amount to an extra 11 per cent on the total originally asked for, to cover spending on supplementary benefits.

This is a substantial increase. It is, for example, more than half what the Government intends to spend under the Youth Unemployment Programme.

It appears the Government could probably meet the increased cost of long-term unemployment out of its contingency reserve. However, there have been a number of calls on the reserve during the year, depleting it considerably.

What is less clear is the extent to which the additional spending on the long-term jobless has been allowed for in the expenditure plans for the next financial year starting in April.

The Treasury failed to see how fast total unemployment would rise and, consequently, the number of people who would be out of work for more than a year. At present, more than 28 per cent of the total jobless have been on the dole for longer than 12 months. At the beginning of last year, the proportion was less than 19 per cent.

Sir Richard O'Brien, chairman of the Manpower Commission, estimated in evidence to a House of Commons Select Committee that the number of long-term unemployed would rise to over one million this year.

As the long-term unemployed receive unemployment benefit, there could be some savings for the National Insurance Fund if more people are forced on to supplementary benefit. But this is likely to fall a very long way short of the £500m extra being paid out in supplementary benefit this year. A further factor behind the extra spending has been the higher number of families where both parents have lost their jobs.

Long-term unemployment is now being seen as a problem that is just as important as youth unemployment.

METAL BULLETIN P.L.C.

CONSOLIDATED RESULTS Year ended 31 December 1981			
	1981	1980	
Turnover	£,000	£,000	
Profit before taxation	4043.2	3492.5	
Profit after taxation	914.6	781.7	
Ordinary Dividend	240.9	377.5	
		214.2	
Earnings per Share	9.91p	8.75p	
Dividend per Share	5.5p	5.0p	
● Turnover up 18%			
● Pre-tax profits increased by 17%			
● Proposed final dividend of 3.5p per share to give a total dividend for the year of 5.5p (1980 — 5.0p)			
● Metal Bulletin P.L.C. was launched on the Stock Exchange on 15th January 1981			
Unlisted Securities Market during April 1981			
	7.9		
	8.7		

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

BUSINESS

INT P

SHREW

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BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

INTER-CITY
PEOPLE

SHREWSBURY
Up Percy's
garden path

Could the TV gardener Percy Thrower find himself competing against himself on his own home turf?

Thrower's appointment as horticultural adviser to the supermarket group Tesco involves the re-opening of 12 of the group's garden centres, as well as new ones to be opened in Cardiff, Swansea and Abingdon. They are to be renamed Percy Thrower Garden Centres.



Percy Thrower

But Tesco had just won planning permission for a big new store at Featherbed Lane, Shrewsbury, which is only the other side of town from Thrower's place, the Percy Thrower Gardening Centre. Could there be two different Percy Throwers in the same town?

Thrower tells me from Shrewsbury: "I don't know if the store will have a garden centre, but I would have thought place like that would have. I supposed it could cause problems but I'll face it when it comes."

And over at Tesco's HQ at Waltham Cross, Hertfordshire, an aide of chairman and chief executive Leslie Porter told me: "At this stage there's nothing that mentions a garden centre on the planning application, but that's not to say because the size of the store is so substantial, that it wouldn't have a garden centre."

NORTH WALES
Picture post

Falcon Hildred is an industrial designer who lives near Blaenau Ffestiniog and has spent the last decade building up "Worktown", not a place but a pictorial record of nineteenth century British industrial towns.

Worktown records in site sketches and coloured studies the places where people lived, worked and played — places which are fast disappearing — and the exhibition has been touring the country for the past five years.

On Wednesday, however, the exhibition will have its first showing in London, where it will be at the Royal Institute of British Architects until March 25.

From London, Worktown goes on to Bradford Industrial Museum, the Ironbridge Gorge Museum and then to its permanent venue at Hildred's home near Blaenau. Hildred is hard at work producing prints and postcards of his work to finance Worktown through the next decade.

FIFE
Take the floor



Ronald Barlow

Remember linoleum? Ronald Barlow does. Barlow is managing director of Nairn Floors at Kirkcaldy and he is about to spend about £750,000 modernising the linoleum plant there.

Plastics such as vinyl began to price out linoleum in the 1950's and Nairn is now one of only three makers in the world. That is beginning to change as commercial users once again cover the floors of their premises with the more durable lino, which is not oil based and therefore is not always much dearer.

Barlow is spending part of the money on a new steam-generating plant — using the locally-mined Fife coal.

Ross Davies

NEW
APPOINTMENTS

Mr L. B. Whittaker has become chairman and chief executive of Evershed Power-Optics.

Mr G. A. H. Watts has been appointed a director of Electrical Press. Mr Watts is a director of The British Electric Traction Company.

Mr Kenneth Edwards has been appointed deputy director-general of the Confederation of British Industry and takes up his new duties on March 11.

INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK

No easy answers to Europe's interest rates dilemma



Delors, the French Finance Minister, has often expressed the wish for a concerted European interest rate policy to counter that of the United States, this possible line of escape has never been discussed sufficiently to form the basis of a coherent proposal.

To more conservative spirits such as Herr Hans Mathieser, the West German Finance Minister, Herr Karl-Otto Poehl, the German Federal Bank president, and Britain's Chancellor, Sir Geoffrey Howe, such suggestions, with their implied purpose of depressing European interest rates in defiance of American monetary policy, have the plausibility of defying gravity.

As a result, the European response to Mr Reagan's budgetary and monetary policies, has inevitably been a staid one.

Although European economic policy makers are prepared to express anger and frustration in private (and occasionally, like Chancellor Schmidt, to let fly an overt reprimand) their public approach to the United States has tended to be conciliatory in the hope of extracting some prospect of cooperation with Washington.

Last week, it was the turn of Belgium's Prime Minister Mr Wilfried Martens to tread the well worn path to Washington to complain about American monetary policy, point out the damage they were doing to the Atlantic alliance and see if there was any scope for joint action.

Mr Martens was luckier than most. Because Belgium

holds the EEC presidency he managed to see President Reagan, with whom, in Mr Reagan's words, he had "a very fruitful discussion of the economy, economic trade and what we can do to be mutually helpful".

Equally predictably Mr Martens was told that the "outlook for the Western economy as a whole is good and we'll get over the short term problems".

In the face of such platitudes, it is hardly surprising that the Europeans want to do something to give themselves a measure of monetary autonomy.

But it is equally clear from the outcome of last week's meeting of EEC Finance Ministers here that there is no quick and easy way to widen their scope for independent action.

Europe's subservience to American interest rate developments and budgetary policy is fundamentally a reflection of the weaknesses of the European economy itself.

If international investors believed that the EEC's economic house was in order, they would be less likely to shift funds in pursuit of high American interest rates. But in addition to mass unemployment, the EEC is suffering from high trade deficits with Japan and the United States. High budget deficits in most member states and a high average rate of inflation.

So while finance ministers agreed last week that efforts should be stepped up to persuade the United States to modify its policies and mon-

etary techniques and join the Europeans in what Mr Willy de Clercq, the Belgian Finance Minister, called "real consultations" on monetary, fiscal and currency policies, stress was also placed on the need for the European countries to put their own house in order.

In EEC jargon, this means doing more to create a "convergence" of economic performance among the countries of the Community. Convergence is a difficult goal to reach at the best of times. There is no "mechanism" to produce it. The goal, as Mr de Clercq pointed out, is reached through a coordination of national policies in the direction of financial and economic rectitude.

To illustrate the problems of the Community one need look no further than France. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) the policies chosen by President Mitterrand's government in France are likely to lead to increased inflation in that country, while inflation is set to decrease modestly elsewhere in the Community. Such developments represent a divergence of economic performance rather than convergence.

Because the individual economies of the EEC are diverging rather than converging, it is prudent to view with certain scepticism the planned further development of the European Monetary System (EMS).

The ministers agreed last week to continue work on

various improvements to the EMS with a view to decisions being taken at the European summit in March, in time to celebrate three years relatively trouble free operation of the monetary system and 25 rather more fraught years since the signing of the Treaty of Rome setting up the Community.

The ideas under consideration are not in themselves bad. Various ways of increasing the attractiveness of the European currency unit to make it a more acceptable vehicle of settling debts between central banks and increase its use by private borrowers and lenders and modifying technical aspects of the system governing the creation of ECUs and intra-marginal intervention.

Assuming that the more important goal of convergence is pursued, it is doubtful whether even the sceptical West Germans would object too greatly to these modest aims.

But what is baffling is the apparent belief that tinkering with the EMS will somehow open the way to monetary cooperation with the United States.

In his speech to the European Parliament last week Mr Gaston Thorn, the Commission President, after enumerating the various internal measures planned for the EMS, said: "but there is an external dimension to development of the EMS, which is particularly critical in the present world situation: the gradual establishment of effective monetary cooperation, organised in the first instance with the United States, will be a vital factor in the success of the EMS in the near future."

The problem is that this external dimension cannot be created as long as the United States authorities refuse to cooperate in monetary affairs with the Europeans. The United States refusal to abandon "benign neglect" of the dollar on foreign exchange markets or cease their destructive habit of announcing the money supply figures weekly, augurs ill for the "gradual establishment of effective monetary cooperation."

The danger for the Europeans is that when faced with this blockade, they will get bogged down in internal "improvements" of the EMS, simply because they have to be seen to be taking action on the monetary front.

In this case the prisoner would be decorating his cell rather than earning remission or persuading his captors to let him free.

Peter Norman

Searching for China's offshore oil riches

The opening up of a major unexplored oil province which some enthusiasts already bill as a potential new Saudi Arabia is bound to be an exciting moment for the oil industry; and last week's long-awaited decision by the Chinese Government to launch the bidding for exploration rights in its vast offshore waters was just that.

Oil companies have reacted with a mixture of pleasure and relief to the new formal overtures from Peking. Since the Chinese first indicated four years ago that they wanted to use foreign expertise and capital to develop their virtually uncharted offshore oil potential, companies have carried out extensive seismic surveys in the Yellow and South China Seas.

But they have become increasingly frustrated by the bureaucratic delays and governmental dithering which has held up the start of the exploration phase proper.

Indeed, some pessimistic oilmen had come to fear that all the uncertainty surrounding the political fate of China's leader, Deng Xiaoping, chief architect of the recent "open door" policy of greater economic links with the West, might be putting the oil development project in jeopardy.

Those fears have now been allayed by last week's decision: and the oil companies will soon be able to start drilling — which will prove one way or another whether China's promise as a potentially large offshore oil producer really is as great as the seismic work suggests.

The 46 foreign oil companies which took part in the seismic surveys have been told that they have until the end of next month to inform the Chinese Government of whether they are willing to bid for acreage. The bids are then expected to be called for in the next few months, and allocated shortly afterwards opening the way for the first wells to be drilled early next year.

In the meantime, the Chinese have set up a national state oil corporation (CNOOC), and issued draft regulations covering how and in what form oil development

should proceed. Companies have not yet seen model contracts in final form or the crucial tax laws that will determine the viability and profitability of the operations; but they are confident, that finally, at least, the terms will be no more — and possibly slightly less — onerous than those in most other oil producing countries, in these Opec-inspired days.

Among the western oil companies taking part are all the oil majors, including B.P., Shell and Exxon, several state-backed national oil corporations such as Canada's Petrocan and Brazil's Petrobras, and three small British independent companies, Tricentrol, Cluff Oil and Berkeley Exploration.

The crucial question for all of them is: how big are the offshore China reserves going to be? The industry's attitude to the prospects is both optimistic yet still cautious.

Those headline-grabbing claims that China's reserves could prove to be as large as those of the Opec's giant Saudi Arabia — reiterated only two weeks ago by a senior energy economist at the American bank Chase Manhattan — are dismissed as hyperbole by most oilmen.

"The geology is certainly very interesting," says Basil Butler, head of B.P.'s international exploration and production operations. "But as nobody has done any proper drilling yet, to compare offshore China with Saudi Arabia at this juncture is meaningless."

However there is hope in the oil industry — shared by B.P. — that the area will prove to be at least another North Sea.

The seismic has shown that there are more than 100 large and potentially oil-bearing geological structures under China's continental shelf, particularly in the South China Sea, around Hainan Island and to the south of Hong Kong, Macao and Canton.

"There are lots of these large structures, and they look very attractive," says Tony Fox, exploration manager at Tricentrol. "At this stage we cannot tell whether they are oil traps or not, although there is every indication that they are."



Drilling for oil off China — the industry hope it will prove to be another North Sea.

Drilling carried out by the Chinese and the Japanese in the shallow waters off the Gulf of Bohai, between Korea and north China, has already led to a number of oil strikes. Other discoveries have been made just off the coast in south China.

The attraction of offshore China for the oil companies is the sheer scale of the acreage available. Of the seven main areas covered by the seismic surveys, only about a third is being made available in the initial bidding. But that covers 60,000 square miles, equivalent to the United Kingdom sector of the North Sea.

Technically, the challenge is not too demanding for the oil industry — at least in theory. Although the licence areas in the South China Sea fall away sharply to water depths of more than 3,000ft (beyond the capacity of industry's existing technology), most of the attractive prospects are in less than 600ft of water.

In the Yellow Sea, where BP drilled two stratigraphic test wells last year, the water is only 30ft deep 120 kilometres from the shore. By comparison the largest oil platform in the North Sea, BP's Magnus development,

stands in 600ft of water. And unlike the North Sea, where storms and bad weather make drilling impossible for several weeks each year, drilling should be possible nearly all year round off China. The only worry which the industry can see is the problem of intermittent typhoons, which will probably lead to the temporary evacuation of rigs and platforms.

The real technical difficulties are likely to come from the Chinese insistence that oil companies use local equipment and employees whenever possible. China has its own offshore oil industry and produces as much oil from its inland fields (two million barrels a day) as the North Sea.

But its equipment is rudimentary. Oil companies are worried that, unless they can provide their own, the lack of adequacy of Chinese rigs, supply boats, drill pipes and helicopters will put a brake on the pace of development. Communication is also bound to be a serious problem.

The "best case" forecasts oil companies can make predict the first oil could start flowing from China in 1986/7, and that, assuming the potential is realized, (a big if) production could build

up to 1.5 or 2 million barrels a day by the mid-1990s.

To put that in perspective, two million barrels of oil a day is a little under five per cent of present world production. However, as nearly 10 per cent of non-Opec supplies, Chinese oil could well have a significant effect on the international oil market.

The Chinese have stipulated that all oil found offshore must be landed on the mainland in the first instance, but have told oil companies that they will be able to keep and export at least 49 per cent of what they find.

The Chinese will badly need oil for internal use as their onshore fields should decline in the later 1980s, and their huge population puts constant pressure on indigenous energy supplies.

And their need for foreign currency earnings will be just as great, so they will almost certainly be obliged to export the bulk of what is found.

A great deal for both East and West therefore hangs on how willingly the Chinese continental shelf yields up its riches. A measure of what is at stake is the capital required to exploit their offshore oil. It is estimated at £15,000m or more — and much of that will have to come from Western oil companies and banks.

Jonathan Davis

Base Lending Rates

Company	Rate	Company	Rate
ABN Bank	14%	Barclays	14%
BCCI	14%	Consolidated Crds	14%
C. Hoare & Co	14%	Lloyds Bank	14%
Midland Bank	14%	Nat Westminster	14%
TSB	14%	Williams & Glyn's	14%

* 7 day deposits on sums of £10,000 up to £50,000 12-14% £50,000 and over 12-14%

Business Editor

The Amersham reaction

To many people the £1750m gambler's money, that headed for the Government's latest privatization offering, Amersham International, has been unedifying. It has once again labelled the City as the nation's chief repository of greed.

And Amersham is not an isolated case. British Aerospace, a year ago, and Cable and Wireless, last autumn, were similar tales if on a lesser scale.

Outside observers, and some inside ones too, can only believe something is wrong with the method by which securities are sold to the public. And doubly so when the offer is from the Government. For in the cases of all three recent issues it might be argued that the low offer prices effectively robbed the Exchequer of funds sufficient to build a hospital or several schools. But is there any better way of handling these sales?

One of the more general criticisms levelled at the present system for privatization is that it is all part of a Tory conspiracy to do well for its City supporters. Alternatively, it is part of a City conspiracy to rip off the Government and, by extension, the taxpayer.

The instinctive collective desire to make a quick dollar and organized conspiracy are not, I think, quite the same thing. But if the Government felt it was being poorly served by the City in its privatization programme, it does have the option to do something about it.

At its most radical that would mean reducing the role of the private issuing houses and instead channeling privatization through the biggest issuing house of all, namely the Bank of England.

I doubt somehow that this is a role that the Bank would relish. For to start it would find it rather ironic that it should be asked to expand its issuing activities having itself been the butt of so much criticism over the years — not least from the politicians — for the way in which it has handled the issuing of Government debt.

But leaving the channels of issue aside for the moment, could the issuing process itself be improved? The present method of an offer for sale at a predetermined price effectively makes the issuing parties making a guess as to what investors will be prepared to pay for stock.

The basic factor in the issuers' mind is always that the issue must be a success. Stock left with the underwriters is considered a far greater disaster than the embarrassment of an Amersham situation. Consequently, there is an inbuilt tendency to underprice.

There are several defences to this. The main point however is that a flotation that leaves investors with money in their pockets tend both to encourage them to participate in subsequent issues as well as giving the company a status that may well serve it in good stead for its own future fund raising.

In other words, some giveaway over the short term might pay for itself on the longer view. And that, it is argued, is a point even the Government should accept when balancing the long-term interests of the companies it sells against the more immediate interests of the taxpayer.

The argument holds a certain amount of truth but is far from conclusive. Good quality issues should always find buyers without investors needing to be virtually guaranteed a substantial short-term profit. Certainly, the possibility of investors being given, say, a £200m first day premium on a Bristol issue should be unthinkable.

But in that case what are the other options? The most obvious is some form of auction or tender. But this is often objected to on the grounds that it is a more sophisticated form of sale in which the institutions are

likely to walk all over the smaller investors — precisely the opposite of what the Government wants to see.

There are however various forms of tender. Certainly, the stocks could be put on general offer and allotted solely to the highest bidders. But there could also be an intermediate tender with stock first allotted to a relatively small group of principal underwriters.

They would bid whatever they felt would leave them with the smallest turn when making secondary offering to the general public. Some form of weighted tender could be used to discourage a cartel approach, eg the top four or six bidders taking all.

Conceivably too, stock could be tendered in this way and then simply fed into the market without a further formal offering. Or the Government could even use the Bank of England to feed stock directly into the market as with a gilt-edged tap stock.

There are plenty of possible permutations and it will be sad day if the Treasury/Bank of England on the one hand and the private sector issuers on the other cannot come up with something better for the future.

Money market Problem still

The full January banking figures last week confirmed that the Bank of England's issue department continues to stand as a major lender to the private sector as a result of its heavy bill purchases to relieve market liquidity shortages. Since mid-January that role will have expanded still further, and it is going to be interesting to see how the authorities play their hand over the next few weeks.

Last Thursday the Bank decided the appropriate way to deal with the impact of the Amersham issue was through a reduction in the amount of money the banks were obliged to hold with the discount houses and by making up the difference by discounting houses is likely to be an unusual week. The March 1 tranche of Petroleum Revenue Tax of perhaps £1,500m or so may actually drain the markets of less than £1,000, depending on the extent to which the oil companies meet the payment through realizing certificates of tax deposit.

But other factors too are likely to run against the banking sector that week and some dealers expect the overall shortage to approach £2,000m with no prospect of the shortage being immediately unwound.

Doubtless the authorities will cope with the situation as well as they have done with similar weeks in the past. But the case for adding to the commercial bill and greater range of public sector paper for an open market operations must be growing stronger.

It is time to dust down the file on 6 and 12-month treasury bills?

LENDING TO PRIVATE SECTOR monthly change £m.

By Banks	Com. total	Issue Dept
July	+591	183 +408
Aug	+547	+910 +1,457
Sept	+1,399	913 +1,205
Oct	+643	+199 +776
Nov	+833	+1,718 +2,551
Dec	+513	+568 +1,071
Jan	+558	+1,323 +1,881
Total	+4,884	+4,226 +9,150

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited 27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212 The Over-the-Counter Market

Capitalisation 2000's	Company	Last Price	Ch'ge on week	Gross Yld (D1p.)	P/E Actual	Fullly Traded
1,224	ABI Bd 10% CULS	123	-1	10.0	8.1	—
4,052	Airprugroup Group	70	-	4.7	11.1	15.4
1,105	Armitage & Rhodes	43	-1	4.3	10.0	3.6
12,342	Bardon Hill	202	-2	9.7	4.8	9.8
5,494	Deborah Services	71	-6	6.0	8.5	3.5
4,143	Frank Horrell	130	-	6.4	4.9	11.7
11,911	Frederick Parker	83	+2	5.4	7.7	4.2
941	George Blair	51	-	—	—	—
3,858	IPC	95	-1	7.3	7.7	6.3
2,544	Lis Cony Pref	106	+1	15.7	14.8	—
2,404	Jackson Group	95	+1	7.0	7.4	3.0
15,458	James Burrough	112	-	8.7	7.8	8.2
2,530	Robert Jenkins	250	+4	13.1	12.5	3.5
2,880	Scruttons "A"	58	+2	5.3	9.1	8.9
3,930	Torday & Carlisle	161	-3	10.7	6.6	5.2
2,885	Twinklford Ord	139	-	—	—	—
2,102	Twinklford 15% ULS	77	-	15.8	19.5	—
9,567	Uniclock Holdings	26	-1	3.0	11.5	4.6
9,506	Walter Alexander	75	+2	6.4	8.5	4.9
5,274	W. S. Yates	226	+2	13.1	5.8	4.3

Prices now available on Prestel page 49345

Prices now available on Prestel, page 48146

Now Saunders knows the score at Birmingham

by Souness, Lee, Rush and McDermott, and Southampton, the leaders, 20,000 and the audience at Sunderland, who have not scored in their last five matches, were their lowest of the season, 13,163.

Watford attracted by far the largest crowd in the second division for their outstanding fixture against their local rivals, Bolton Wanderers, 20,000. The division showed an increase on last season's average and apart from Bolton Wanderers, stable at 9,500, the others were down by an aggregate of 14,000. Newcastle City and Leicester City, involved in games featuring Cup finalists, and Sheffield Wednesday, who were the only team to lose to the others to be seen by more than 10,000.

Local derbies also attracted the highest attendances in the third and fourth divisions, lending support to the argument that regionalization would increase the popularity of matches. In the third division City, more in need of financial support than any other of the 23 League clubs, were the highest with 18,787, but their defeat was witnessed by 17,000 people. Only Burnley and Preston, with glories of the past behind them, came



Mr Jack Wiseman, vice chairman of Birmingham, wonders what he can read in Ron Saunders face

although the youngster Phillips responded well to Birmingham's cause as did Van Mierlo who had the beating of Williams down the left.

For all Villa's early dominance, Frank was of

"What's the score, Saunders, what's the score?" asked the Villa contingent, yet not even Withe's goal nor a subsequent shot blocked by Jones's legs on the goaline could really have enhanced the forward's England

repeated at various intervals with the spontaneity of the Kop from Mr Saunders' own Merseyside. The players were not allowed to sit and diligently instilled into the champions was, as he acknowledged, "the biggest difference between the sides on a hectic afternoon."

Birmingham, it is true, were without Dillon, who was suspended for a second time, and Todd, who are no longer indispensable, so it was not surprising that Villa were more than a match for them and possessed the coolest heads in the frenzy that was midfield, threat than all the forwards together. He had four strong one header, striking the bar, and a second headed venom than the effects waste Shaw and Cowan.

Curiously, the first half came after 38 minutes, it did from the most unexpected source. Withers, who had been restricted by Scott on loan to the reserves, was the cause of the mistake was crucial. In trying to Morley's hanging through ball back to Jones, he sold the ball to the other side, unable to sweep the ball into an unguarded net.

put, but, more, by a good deal of so-called criticism from the rough side of the way. 52

Robertson on song with injury

Motherwell expected little of Clinton. Raith, who were then selves almost promoted season, until a late attack nerves ended their hopes, won their previous four matches and were about twenty minutes buzzing round Motherwell goal, and the open score was entirely against run of play. A clearance for Clinton, who was sent to Irvine. He went round Steel, shot high into the net for delightful if undeserved a just over 10 minutes into second half, Motherwell scored a goal. Clinton, with excellent diving save from close-in header by Forbes, could not hold the ball. Cleland, who had come on at last, sent McKewen, pushed over the line.

It remains to be seen when the Lennoxshire side's determination and enterprising style of play will surface. It is to live to live in terms with the country's leading clubs next season. It may significant that in a cup-battle home to Aberdeen some weeks ago, Motherwell were consequently the match) and before the referee had started game, and they were rescued by another pressure play, and the referee friendly match in Edinburgh.

DAVID MONTGOMERY, A. D. C. (Edinburgh, T. H. O.)

John Robertson limped into Scotland's Glasgow headquarters last evening, having posed another problem for Jock Stein as he prepares in Valencia on Wednesday. The Nottingham Forest winger took a kick on his right ankle in the second minute of Saturday's match at Brighton.

Robertson's injury is a blow to Mr Stein, who on Saturday had to call up Steve Archibald, of Tottenham, to replace the other winger in the squad, Dave Cooper, of Rangers.

Scotland will be permitted only a three-month break after the World Cup finals before returning to serious action. They will begin their 1982 European championship campaign against East Germany at Hampden Park on October 13. Dates of matches: Scotland v East Germany (October 13), Switzerland v Scotland (November 17), Belgium v Scotland (December 15), Scotland v Switzerland (March 30, 1983), Scotland v Belgium (October 12, 1983), East Germany v Scotland (November 16, 1983).

England's dates

European Championship Group three fixtures: Sat 22, 1982, Denmark v England; Oct 9, Luxembourg v Greece; Nov 10, Luxembourg v England; Nov 10, England v Denmark; Nov 18, England v Luxembourg; Mar 27, 1983, Luxembourg v Hungary; Mar 30,

James is Swansea's inspiration

By John Douglas

Sunderland 0 Swanssea City 2

A rare flash of football intelligence by Swanssea's Leighton James, who surprised the Sunderland goalkeeper with a sudden shot from 25 yards illuminated an otherwise depressing match at Roker Park and gave Swanssea three points in their return championship challenge.

It is questionable, however, if they can win the League title. Although they defeated Sunderland they lack pace at the back and better side than Sunderland would have exploited the weak defence.

At least, for Swanssea supporters there is always the possibility of their side winning the title. For Sunderland the prospects are bleak. They are heading towards the second relegation at an alarming rate and appear to do so by losing money by buying quality players to halt the rot. There was no lack of effort from them, but persistence without inspiration is not enough.

For the first 20 minutes Sunderland defended the goal and came close to scoring when Buckley sent Brown through, but his shot lacked power and Davies diverted the ball for a corner. It was one of the few chances Sunderland earned in the match to Swanssea's five.

To work Sunderland were trying to outwit Sunderland were trying to outwit Swansea defence which employed Rajkovic as sweeper, the visitors were receiving from Stanley, forced his way past two defenders on the right wing before turning the ball into the net. The goal was some 25 yards from goal. James moved the ball to his left foot and shot quickly, but the Swanssea goal-keeper was unprepared. The ball dipped into the net just inside the right-hand post and he did not make a very keen dive.

James almost scored again in the half-time when he thumped a beautiful shot past the goal from 25 yards against the angle of bar and post. Although they were ragged at times, they were unlikely to score and James missed two good chances.

Sunderland's centre-forward Brown had a wonderful opportunity to save the match in the closing seconds, but with only Davies to beat, he was only able to put the ball in the keeper's hands.

This was Sunderland's third successive defeat and in front of their lowest league gate, 13,000, of the season.

SUNDERLAND: G. Siddons, J. Hurregan, J. Brown, J. Bennett, J. Clark, S. Elliot, M. Buckley, A. McClellan, A. Croome, J. McGinlay.

SWANSEA: D. Davies, G. Stanley, C. Jones, J. Williams, J. Williams, J. McClellan, C. Evans, R. Kennedy, A. Brown, J. Thomas, R. James, J. Hurregan, J. Bennett, J. Clark, S. Elliot, M. Buckley, A. McClellan, A. Croome, J. McGinlay.

Referee: P. F. Nelson (Wrexham)

achieve than they expected, a 2-0 win away from home is satisfactory by any standards. Not that

Went, 8, McCarty, 7, Carson, 6, McNeilly, 6, McNeill, 5, McLeod, 5, Wilson, 5, O'Hara, 4, Gethens, 4.

Referee: H. Williamson (Hawthorn).

Weekend results and tables

WEDDERBURN, W.S.
Edinburgh. Tel: 031-225 5585.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wigan A	19	15	10	4	56	4	45

IRISH LEAGUE: Round 1, Glenavon 2:

to emerge clutched a
rabbit.
In such agile form Wood
gave even that nimble ever-
jennings, a long wait in
wings. He picked up the
saw and chopping the
as he changed ends before
start; thereafter, it was
whenever he reached for it.
There were mellow
ings, but Wood was
aimed low by his. As
Nichols's shot changed dire
ly, Nichols and Wood
crept by the right hand
for the goalkeeper
stretched fingertips and
another Wood sprang up
to crush over the
vulnerable effort by Rob
perhaps Arsenal's most ru
in this direction.
For the rest, apart from
couple of baguettes as shot
Efficiency and Robson
bought an American cal
copped at getting behind
ball and churning the dire

Spurs Totte

The pendulum was a
swinging Tottenham's way b
Mr Grey gave it the final
push. He was a
there was Ardiles. His man
Keith Burkinshaw, praised
but added that Spurs can
as about Arsenal's chances
April and May when the
competitions may still lie w
in his grasp. In
has missed so far though
went down to their head
defeat of the season.

Dick, a promising 16-year
Scott and on a surprise
played his old fashioned part
on the left for Tottenham
when he gave way to Robert
middle had become
ground for two of England's
young centre halves. Reid
the other important defende
he eventually dropped back
his rightful position when
manager's son retired with
injury.

By then city had been pie
for the second time and in
man's defence. He was
ified Hoddle. From a cor
Ardiles rolled the ball across
edge of the area and Hoddle
in a yard before striking a
foot shot of stunning po
There was no disputing
validity of that.

Corrigan might well h
added three himself as ci
defence became farcical
but Corrigan at least remain
defence.
an astonishing save fr
Crooks. Corrigan may be m
than a spectator at Weml
when England meet North
and the most likely way to
relish the prospect of running
to - Hoddle's majestic swe

United's efforts. It does not make for lively entertainment, but it seems to be a formula for reward, if that is measured by a place among those with an eye on the championship.

It was an hour before Arsenal aimed a legitimate shot within Bailey's reach, yet they could so easily have snatched the match in a late spurt of attacking. Presumably the play is first to fall the opposition into a sense of false security. At any rate, Meade, who had replaced Vassett, twice had chances to align his sights. His best opportunity, neatly provided by Rix and Sansom, brought a running header which might have counted had its direction matched the timing of his run in.

MANCHESTER UNITED: G. Bailey, J. Gidman, A. Johnson, R. Winters, G. Horner, M. Buchan, S. Robson, G. Striker, P. Suckston, M. Darbyshire, S. Gosnell.

ARSENAL: G. Wood, J. Moffin, M. Sansom, D. Talbot, D. O'Leary, G. Whyte, P. Vassett, C. R. Adams, A. Sunderland, P. Davis, P. McHugh, G. Rice.

Referee: T. Ellis (Gloucester).

Ransomham

Reddy before push, he is forager, him do during three chitchin a be they viest

old had out but the best-est was just into the a

forced the the ener, the weak left over

have they aged and from some play

McDonald, N. Kelly, K. Dowd, G. Jackson, T. Colton, J. Ryan, K. Reeves, T. Ffrench, A.

ROBERTS: A. Gamp (Great Yarmouth).

Lift-off: Tottenham's Houghton avoids Ransom's Challenge

With Ron Greenwood's permission, that may be the case

WINDSOR:

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR: R. Greenwood, G. Houghton, P. Midler, P. Price, M. Hazard, S. Pennington, G. Ardley, S. Ashfield, A. Dool, G. Rowan, G. Hodder, G. Graham.

MANCHESTER CITY: J. Coulson, R. Ransom, P. McDonald, N. Kelly, K. Dowd, G. Jackson, T. Colton, J. Ryan, K. Reeves, T. Ffrench, A.

ROBERTS: A. Gamp (Great Yarmouth).

Bournemouth	27 15	9	3 24	16 54
Sheff Wed	27 18	4	4	42 33
Bristol	28 18	5	6	28 53
Peterboro	28 18	5	4	34 53
Chesham	28 18	5	5	37 59
Cardiff	27 16	5	5	37 59
Port Vale	28 12 11	7	36 30	47
Walsley	27 16	8	4	32 37
Truro City	27 10	7	10	30 47
Walsley	27 11	8	4	32 37

TWO LUXURY FURNISHED OFFICES

FOOTBALL COMBINATIONS: Arsenal, O. Queen's Park Rangers; 4; Ipswich vs Oxford United (sponsored); Luton 1, Wotton 0; Plymouth 3, Northampton 2; Reading 2, 0; Northampton 5; West Ham 6, Birmingham 2; Fulham 2, Orient 2.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Premier Division: 0; 0.

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

Athletics

The real world of Cosford puts glamour and Coe in perspective

better than Allan Wells's indoor best time of 6.68sec, but someone failed to be as quick to start the photo-finish equipment so his hand-held time was entered as 6.7sec. Ken Newton was equally impressive in winning the 3,000 metres in 7min 55.68sec and beating the double European champion, Karl Fleschen, but he had mixed feelings about becoming the centre of attention at the advanced athletics age of 27.

The youth pulled out of the

crowd to run was Kieran Moore, who replaced Holton.

crowd to run was Algran Moore, who replaced Hoffman.

Women

There were 60 matches, race "A": 1. W. Hays (1:54.4), 2. M. M. M. (1:54.4), 3. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 4. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 5. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 6. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 7. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 8. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 9. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 10. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 11. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 12. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 13. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 14. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 15. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 16. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 17. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 18. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 19. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 20. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 21. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 22. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 23. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 24. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 25. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 26. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 27. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 28. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 29. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 30. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 31. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 32. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 33. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 34. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 35. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 36. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 37. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 38. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 39. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 40. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 41. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 42. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 43. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 44. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 45. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 46. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 47. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 48. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 49. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 50. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 51. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 52. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 53. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 54. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 55. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 56. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 57. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 58. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 59. J. J. J. (1:54.4), 60. J. J. J. (1:54.4).

Cyclo-cross British juniors take team title

from John Wincosson
Llanymyrm, Brittany, Feb. 21
12 hours. The horse had been
pulled into almost quivering by
60 men in Rila, Roland, Jiboten,
of Belgium, today raced to his
victory in the 12-hour cross-country
cross championship. He beat the
pace setter, Albert Zweifel, of
Switzerland, in an exciting sprint
finish.

Racing in the worst of today's
atrocious conditions. Great
Britain's junior riders finished
the 12-hour cross-country race
despite their own crashing in
the opening seconds of the 10-
mile race.

His horse had been firm and
dry on Saturday, when Miles
Peters, from Czechoslovakia, re-
tained his amateur title after
seven laps of closely fought racing.

Bowling

101	145	Ande	J L Undergrad
101	105	77 35	J E Embury
102	142	54 28	R G D Willis
103	127	53 23	W A Galt
104	105	77 35	I T Solham
107	145	42 50	G A Diller
108	105	77 35	
112	104	41 23	
113	107	46 15	
114	105	77 35	
115	52	22 58	
116	52	22 58	
117	52	22 58	
118	52	22 58	
119	52	22 58	
120	52	22 58	
121	52	22 58	
122	52	22 58	
123	52	22 58	
124	52	22 58	
125	52	22 58	
126	52	22 58	
127	52	22 58	
128	52	22 58	
129	52	22 58	
130	52	22 58	
131	52	22 58	
132	52	22 58	

India, Ninth Test: 108 in South

India, Third Test: 108 in South

India, Central Zone: 108 in South

India, Fifth Zone: 108 in South

India, Sixth Zone: 108 in South

India, Seventh Zone: 108 in South

India, Eighth Zone: 108 in South

India, Ninth Zone: 108 in South

India, Tenth Zone: 108 in South

India, Eleventh Zone: 108 in South

India, Twelfth Zone: 108 in South

India, Thirteenth Zone: 108 in South

India, Fourteenth Zone: 108 in South

India, Fifteenth Zone: 108 in South

India, Sixteenth Zone: 108 in South

India, Seventeenth Zone: 108 in South

India, Eighteenth Zone: 108 in South

India, Nineteenth Zone: 108 in South

India, Twentieth Zone: 108 in South

India, Twenty-first Zone: 108 in South

India, Twenty-second Zone: 108 in South

India, Twenty-third Zone: 108 in South

India, Twenty-fourth Zone: 108 in South

India, Twenty-fifth Zone: 108 in South

India, Twenty-sixth Zone: 108 in South

India, Twenty-seventh Zone: 108 in South

India, Twenty-eighth Zone: 108 in South

India, Twenty-ninth Zone: 108 in South

India, Thirtieth Zone: 108 in South

India, Thirty-first Zone: 108 in South

India, Thirty-second Zone: 108 in South

India, Thirty-third Zone: 108 in South

India, Thirty-fourth Zone: 108 in South

India, Thirty-fifth Zone: 108 in South

India, Thirty-sixth Zone: 108 in South

India, Thirty-seventh Zone: 108 in South

India, Thirty-eighth Zone: 108 in South

India, Thirty-ninth Zone: 108 in South

India, Fortieth Zone: 108 in South

India, Forty-first Zone: 108 in South

India, Forty-second Zone: 108 in South

India, Forty-third Zone: 108 in South

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India, Ninety-ninth Zone: 108 in South

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India, One hundred and twenty-ninth Zone: 108 in South

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India, One hundred and thirty-second Zone: 108 in South

India, One hundred and thirty-third Zone: 108 in South

India, One hundred and thirty-fourth Zone: 108 in South

India, One hundred and thirty-fifth Zone: 108 in South

India, One hundred and thirty-sixth Zone: 108 in South

India, One hundred and thirty-seventh Zone: 108 in South

India, One hundred and thirty-eighth Zone: 108 in South

India, One hundred and thirty-ninth Zone: 108 in South

India, One hundred and fortieth Zone: 108 in South

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India, One hundred and forty-second Zone: 108 in South

India, One hundred and forty-third Zone: 108 in South

India, One hundred and forty-fourth Zone: 108 in South

India, One hundred and forty-fifth Zone: 108 in South

India, One hundred and forty-sixth Zone: 108 in South

India, One hundred and forty-seventh Zone: 108 in South

India, One hundred and forty-eighth Zone: 108 in South

India, One hundred and forty-ninth Zone: 108 in South

India, One hundred and fiftieth Zone

[illegible][illegible]

ney had come to an abrupt end. But as one of their players put it: "only one good thing came out of this game. We shall be staying at home next weekend." Most of the drama was packed into about 40 seconds of the first half. Neston scored in the eighth minute through Smith from a short corner after Wilkinson had stopped the hit from the line. But in the twinkling of an eye, Bromley equalized. Johnson took a free hit from the right and

WESTO: C. Ashcroft; D. Peters;
C. Cabbell; K. McKenna; M. Wilkinson;
J. Smith; J. Rogers; S. Grooms;
R. Smith; J. Rogers; D. Cabbell;
Umpires: R. Beattie (Midlands);
Referee (Combined Services):
Other results: National club cham-
pionship: 1. Second round: Richmond 5,
2. Derby; 3. Aston's starting
3. Aston and West Warwickshire 2;
4. Southgate; 5. Bromley 2, Neston 1;
6. G. Strong 5; 7. Blunharts 1, Fareham
1 (acc. Fareham won on penalty
shoot-out); 8. Wokingham 1, Maidstone
1 (acc. Maidstone won on penalty
shoot-out).

QUARTER-FINAL DRAW: Maidstone
v. Richmond; Southgate v. Fareham;
Wokingham v. Blunharts; 4. Stamford
v. Bromley.

Racing in the worst of today's atrocious conditions, Great Britain's junior riders finished first in the team championship, despite three of them crashing in the opening seconds of the 10-mile race.

Conditions had been firm and dry on Saturday, when Milan Fiser, from Czechoslovakia, retained his amateur title after seven days of closely fought racing.

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man you like best.



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Edited by Peter Dear

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An Radio 2. 7.00 Mile Road.
Simon Bates. 11.30 Dave Lee
Lay. 2.00 Paul Burnett. 3.30 Steve
Nash. 4.00 Peter Dinklage. 5.00
5.00 David Jensen. 10.00 John
† 12.00 Close.

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minutes News. 7.30 World News.
7.45 Short Story. 8.00 World News.
Reflections. 8.15 The London Bach.
Baker's Half-Dragon. 9.00 World News.
Review of the South Press. 9.15 North
and an Observer. 9.30 The World
1. 9.45 A Day in Edgewood. 10.15
is of the Day: The Navy. 11.00
News.

[illegible]

TYNE TEES

Themes except: **North 8.20** The World. **9.25-3.30** Early 20th Century. **1.20-1.30** News and Currents. **2.30-4.15** Film: *Carnation from Marriage?* (Robert At. Deborah Kerr). A man and his wife a divorce but war intervenes. **5.15-5.45** Happy Days. **6.00-6.15** News. **6.50-7.15** News and 6.30-7.00 Northern Life. **10.30** Imp. **11.15** Lou Grant. **12.10** Film. **12.15** Closedown.

HTV WEST

Themes except: **1.20pm-1.30** 2.30-4.15 Film: *Sky and Sea* (David Miller). A totally disabled girl is helped by a gypsy. **6.45** Different Strains. **6.00-7.00** News. **10.30** Soap. **11.00** Parents and Teenagers. **11.30**

TV CYMRU/WALES

TV West exact: 12.00-12.10pm
News. 6.15-6.20 Mr. Megaw.
12.10-12.15 Mrs. Megaw. 7.00-
7.05 Mr. Megaw. 7.05-7.10 Mr.
W. World in Action. 11.30-12.00
its and Teenagers.

GRAMPIAN

12.00 exact: 9.25 am-9.30 First
News. 12.00-12.05 News. 2.30-4.15
Sunrise. 6.00-6.05 News. 6.05-6.10
(ie FitzBibli) Gentle comedy of
and teacher who flees to the
collar outside. 6.30-6.35
bt. 6.50-7.00 Cause for Concern.
TV: Doctor's Wives (Oyan
an, Richard Crenna) Romantic
and piners. 11.00-11.05 Two and
a bit of surgery. 12.20 am News.
Closedown.

**THE SYMBOLS MEAN: * STEREO
BLACK AND WHITE: (V) REPEAT.**

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Appointments	10, 18, 19
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